Dementia Case Example

**Case Example:** Mrs. Jones, has early onset dementia. She qualifies for hospice primarily due to her weight loss and altered integument.

- During her hospice care, Mrs. Jones utilized a nurse, home care aide, social worker, chaplain, and music therapist.

Collaboration to support family caregivers

- Spouse struggled with balancing the demands of being a caregiver
  - Work
  - Unable to leave patient unattended
- Spouse’s goal was to maintain as much normalcy as possible.
  - The hospice team was able to help with this.
- Mrs. Jones enrolled in Pathways Daycare and her quality of life improved!

Hospice Graduation

- Mrs. Jones’s condition improved in hospice care and she graduated from services.
  - A hospice nurse calls her spouse to check in monthly.
  - 10% of Iowa City Hospice patients improve and graduate from hospice services.
- Mrs. Jones’s spouse is now recharged and knows when to call if her condition should decline.
- Mrs. Jones is thriving at Pathways and has not yet declined to the point of needing hospice again.

Guiding Principles of Hospice

- Addresses unique needs of patients/families at the end of life.
- Recognizes dying as a personal experience.
- Promotes quality of life and death with dignity!
Dementia Admission Criteria

Common Questions

- Who decides when hospice should be initiated?
- What if a patient is a “Full Code” and not “DNR”?
- What happens if a patient improves?
- Is hospice a place to go when dying?
- How is hospice paid for?

Our Take Home Message For You!

We would like to receive your calls sooner than later!

We can accomplish so much more by having the time to plan and make a person’s life more meaningful!

If in doubt, just call and we will be happy to work with you!