



Q & A



Question & Answer Session for Managing Symptoms in Hospice and Palliative Care (1/16/25)

Thank you all for attending January’s webinar and for contributing such insightful and thoughtful questions.

Table of Contents:



Hospice and Palliative Care	3
Pain Management and Medication	5

Hospice and Palliative Care



Is it common practice for most hospices to do wound care?

Yes, wound care is a common practice in hospice settings. Hospice teams often provide wound care to manage symptoms, prevent infections, and ensure patient comfort. This includes care for pressure ulcers, surgical wounds, and other skin conditions that may arise during end-of-life care.

Related Course: [Get certified in Wound Care](#)



Do you recommend a certification in hospice/palliative care for an RN entering this field?

Absolutely. A certification in hospice and palliative care, such as the Certified Hospice and Palliative Nurse (CHPN) credential, is highly recommended. It demonstrates expertise, enhances credibility, and provides specialized knowledge to deliver high-quality care to patients and families.



Have you had experience with the Kennedy Terminal Ulcer (KTU)?

The Kennedy Terminal Ulcer is a skin breakdown that occurs as part of the dying process. It is often unavoidable and signifies multi-organ failure. Hospice teams are familiar with KTUs and focus on comfort measures, such as keeping the area clean, dry, and free from pressure, while educating families about its natural occurrence.





Hospice and Palliative Care Contd.



A recent event occurred in which caregivers were neglectful and caused harm. What do you recommend in this situation?

In cases of neglect, it is critical to report the incident to the appropriate authorities, such as the hospice administration or state regulatory bodies. Conduct a thorough investigation, provide additional training to caregivers, and implement stricter oversight to prevent future occurrences. Open communication with the affected family is also essential to rebuild trust.



How can families be better educated about the services provided by hospice?

Families can be educated about hospice services through various methods. Initial orientation sessions can explain the services and goals of hospice care, providing a clear understanding of what to expect. Written materials and brochures tailored to their specific needs can serve as helpful references. Regular family meetings with the care team offer opportunities to address questions and concerns directly. Additionally, access to online resources or workshops about end-of-life care can provide further insights and support. Encouraging open dialogue is essential to clarify any misconceptions and ensure families feel informed and supported throughout the process.

Pain Management and Medication



What is the usual dosage for ketamine?

Common misconceptions about managing Type 1 diabetes in children include thinking that sweets are completely off-limits, insulin should be withheld when blood glucose levels are normal, and that eating candy can cause T1D. Effective management involves gradually transferring responsibility to the child while maintaining parental oversight and getting them involved in their diabetes care and decision-making from an early age.



How is ketamine given?

Ketamine can be administered intravenously (IV), intramuscularly (IM), orally, or subcutaneously. In hospice care, IV or subcutaneous routes are often preferred for controlled and effective pain relief.



For the Uncle Mel Case Study, why not use a PCA pump in his care?

PCA (Patient-Controlled Analgesia) pumps may not be ideal in hospice care if the patient lacks the cognitive or physical ability to operate the device. Additionally, hospice care often focuses on simplifying medication delivery to ensure comfort without requiring active patient participation.



Are PCA pumps used often in home care?

PCA pumps are less commonly used in home hospice care due to the complexity of setup and monitoring. Instead, medications are typically administered via oral, subcutaneous, or continuous infusion methods to ensure ease of use for caregivers and patients.





Pain Management and Medication Contd.



Are there any alternative therapies commonly used alongside medications like ketamine in hospice care?

Alternative therapies are often used alongside medications like ketamine in hospice care to enhance patient comfort and well-being. Massage therapy is commonly employed to help reduce pain and anxiety, providing a soothing and calming effect. Acupuncture is another option, offering pain relief through the stimulation of specific points on the body. Aromatherapy, using essential oils, promotes relaxation and can create a peaceful environment. Music therapy is also beneficial, as it improves emotional well-being and helps patients cope with stress. Additionally, guided imagery or meditation is used to manage pain perception, allowing patients to focus on positive and calming thoughts. These therapies work in harmony with medical treatments to address both physical and emotional needs in hospice care.



What are the potential side effects of ketamine when used for pain management?

It is important to closely monitor patients on ketamine to manage side effects effectively.

Potential side effects of ketamine include:

- Dizziness and drowsiness
- Nausea and vomiting
- Hallucinations or vivid dreams
- Increased heart rate and blood pressure
- Respiratory depression (rare at low doses)
- Cognitive disturbances, such as confusion or disorientation.