



SUNFLOWER CONNECTION

Taking the FEAR out of HOSPICE



May 2023

IMPORTANT OBSERVANCES

- National Nurse's Day: 5/6
- World Lupus Day: 5/10
- National Nurse's Week: 5/6-5/12
- National Skilled Nursing Care Week: 5/14-5/20
- Huntington's Awareness Month
- Melanoma Skin Cancer Month
- National Cancer Research Month
- Oncology Nursing Month



WORLD MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS DAY IS MAY 30TH

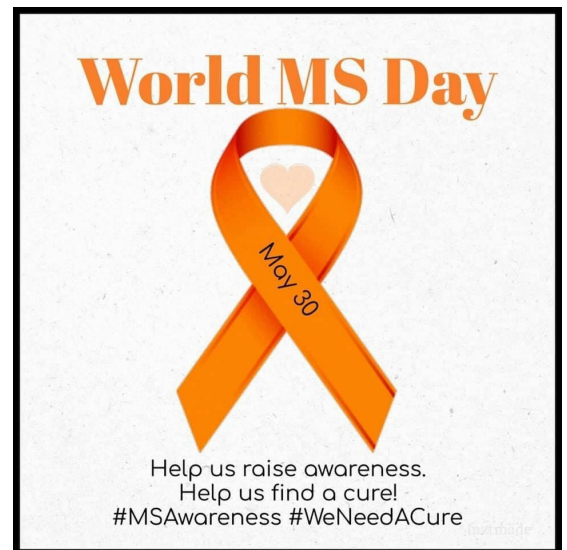
World Multiple Sclerosis Day is observed globally on the 30th of May every year - the 2023 theme (same as 2022) is 'connections.'

The exact cause of this disease which impacts the central nervous system (brain and spinal cord) is unknown; however, according to the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, "We do know that something triggers the immune system to attack the brain and spinal cord. The resulting damage to myelin, the protective layer insulating wire-like nerve fibers, disrupts signals to and from the brain causing unpredictable, temporary, or long-lasting symptoms such as:

- numbness or tingling (face, body, or extremities are typically the first symptoms)
 - mood changes
 - memory problems
 - pain
 - fatigue
 - blindness
 - and or paralysis."
- (www.nationalmssociety.org).

Most people do not die from MS but from complications and related problems such as trouble breathing and swallowing, infections, and comorbidities due to inability to prevent other illnesses.

Hospice and palliative care for MS is comprehensive, including pain and symptom management, caregiver education, assistance with activities of daily living (ADL's) and emotional and spiritual support.



History of Hospice:



1980: The W. K. Kellogg Foundation awards a grant to the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospitals (JCAHO) to investigate the status of hospice and to develop standards for accreditation.

SPOTLIGHT: HOSPICE NURSES

A hospice nurse is unlike any other nurse. A hospice nurse brings care to a patient's home. Hospice nurses are responsible for managing a patient's care that focuses on comfort rather than curative treatment.

When you say the word NURSE, most people know what a nurse does and have stories about incredible nurses in their lives. All nurses are special but hospice nurses hold our hands as we says goodbye to this life and enter the next.

A hospice nurse not only orders medications and medical supplies; they comfort patients with kind words and their time.

A hospice nurse gives important care right where the patient lives. This care can include standard medical care all the way through intensive wound care.

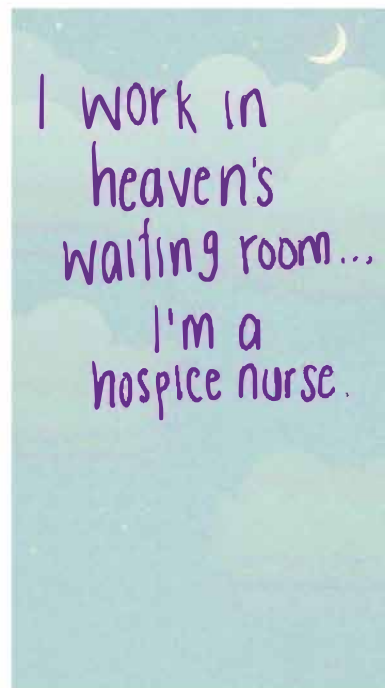
Medicare has guidelines for nursing visits in the home while a patient is receiving hospice care services. Medicare requires an RN see the patient at least every 14 days. While this is the Medicare requirement, Kansas Palliative & Hospice Care will schedule a nurse to see their patients twice per week.

Hospice nursing is unique when it comes to scheduling visits. Nurses will increase their frequency of visits as patient needs develop. Patients are also able to request nurse visits only once-per week.

The hospice nurse will communicate the patient's needs to the primary physician overseeing the care of the patient, and recommend new or additional medications and supplies.

Kansas Palliative & Hospice Care has incredible nurses who focus on the quality of life and comfort of their patients.

Thank you Lisa, Carissa, Mallory, Tracy, Dani, Theresa, Liz, Peggy and Christi for all you do for our patients.



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HOSPICE MYTHS AND FACTS

Myth: To get hospice care, I will have to leave my home for an inpatient facility and give up my primary care doctor.

Fact: Hospice is not a place; it is a service. 67% of hospice patients receive hospice services in their homes.

Hospice is best provided in the comfort of wherever the patient calls home. A patient can choose where they want to live and receive hospice services.

Hospice will order any equipment needed to help the patient stay in their home safely during their care. Hospice can also help a patient and family with resources for in-home care.