



## RIVERCROSS HOSPICE

SERVICES FOR THE MIND, BODY & SPIRIT™

# Physician & Hospice Terminology Guide

**Attending Physician** means a doctor of medicine or osteopathy, duly licensed under applicable state and local law and regulations, who, upon the election of hospice services, is identified by a Hospice patient (or such patient's legal representative) as having the most significant role in the determination and delivery of such Hospice patient's care.

**Authorization** for services are required by Rivercross Hospice and should be obtained by contacting the individual case manager designated for the patient. The Case Manager will require the following information to complete the request for authorization; 1) Service requested, 2) Anticipated date of service, 3) Frequency and duration of the requested services, and 4) Name of the Contracted Provider where services will be rendered.

**Case Manager** means an RN employed by hospice to supervise the Rivercross Hospice Plan of Care

**Consulting Physician:** A Physician whose opinion or advice regarding evaluation or management of a specific problem is requested by Hospice or the Attending Physician. Any Physician other than the Attending who is providing services to the Hospice patient related to the terminal illness is a consultant.

**Contracted Providers:** Medical service providers under contract with Rivercross Hospice to provide ancillary services to Hospice patients.

**Hospice Care Team** means the Attending Physician and certain Hospice employees, which shall include, without limitation, the following individuals: a) a doctor of medicine or osteopathy, b) a registered nurse, c) a social worker, and d) a pastoral or other counselor.

**Hospice Levels of Care:** When a referral is made, the admissions team, along with the patient's Attending Physician and Hospice Medical Director, will decide

the level of care needed. The following levels certified by Medicare are:

- **Routine Home Care**  
Over 96% of all hospice care is provided intermittently in the comfort and security of the patient's home.
- **General Inpatient Care**  
Utilized only in emergencies for pain control and symptom management within a specialized inpatient unit or a contracted Medicare-certified skilled nursing facility or hospital.
- **Respite Care**  
This level of short-term care is used when necessary to relieve the family members or other persons caring for the individual.
- **Continuous Care**  
Only used for a period of crisis, this level of care is covered as necessary to maintain the patient in their current living environment.

**Hospice Patient** means an individual who elects, directly or through such individual's legal representative, to receive hospice services and is accepted by hospice to receive hospice services.

**Hospice Plan of Care** means those services authorized and arranged for by Hospice management of the terminal illness. Hospice services, under the direction of a Physician, include overall case management, nursing care and services by or under the supervision of a RN; medical social services; physician services to the extent that these services are not provided by the Attending Physician; counseling services (including bereavement, dietary and spiritual counseling for patient/family); hospice aide/homemaker services; medical supplies; DME, coordination of transport (if applicable), PT, OT, RT & ST; and inpatient care as needed for pain control, symptom management and respite purposes.

For more information, visit us at [www.rivercrosshospice.com](http://www.rivercrosshospice.com).