



**Student Training Outline – Hospice Administration and Finance
Year 4 Health Care Management Clerkship (OCOM 895)
Appendix D - Academic Year 2008/2009**

I. Purpose

The primary intent of the Hospice Administration and Finance experience is for students to achieve a better understanding of the comprehensive services provided to patients facing a life-limiting illness and their families, how to access these services, and how hospice care is financed. Students are to focus on: 1) the funding sources for hospice care which include Medicare, Medicaid, Commercial Insurance, Managed Care Organizations, and the Veterans Affairs; 2) the types of benefits offered for both home care and inpatient care; 3) when out-of-pocket expenses are needed to cover the cost of hospice care; and 4) the role of the physician in maintaining quality palliative care in the hospice setting.

II. Suggested Learning Issues (to be supplemented by Hospice Administrator)

- A. Hospice as a philosophy of care – Quality of Life vs. Cure for a Disease
- B. The business of hospice care in the health care industry
- C. The financing of quality hospice care in the United States
- D. Medicare hospice benefits and expenditures (approximately 65% of hospice patients in the U.S. are covered by Medicare)
- E. ***During the Hospice Administration experience, the Hospice representative is asked to:***
 - 1. Discuss how to improve access to quality hospice care through public education and professional training of health care providers.
 - 2. Identify what measures are implemented to maintain quality hospice care.
 - 3. Explain the various elements (i.e., medical, psychological, spiritual) of hospice care and whether all services are covered by commercial insurance, Medicare, Medicaid, etc.
 - 4. Review costs associated with hospice care that are typically not covered by insurance or may have specific limitations relative to coverage.
 - 5. Compare the cost difference between conventional hospital care and hospice care.
 - 6. Compare the cost difference between home and inpatient hospice care.

III. Possible Questions for Students to Ask/Initiate during this Experience

- A. When is the right time for persons to access hospice services?
- B. How does one access hospice services?
- C. Are medical costs associated with hospice care tax deductible when not covered by insurance?
- D. Does hospice care instead of hospital/nursing home care raise or lower Medicare costs?
- E. Is hospice home care less expensive than inpatient hospital or hospice care?
- F. How much does Medicare spend annually on hospice care?
- G. What national organizations offer services to people having a terminal illness?