“Ask ALECC”

**What Do You Still See As Our Continued Work in Hospice?**

I recently attended the CHAPCA Annual Conference which was a great conference. I certainly hope you all benefit from the support of your State Hospice Associations. They are great organizations, and I always recommend that Hospice Providers join their State Associations and participate in the conferences and learning events provided. They not only represent you legislatively, but are there to support your organizations when you have questions, concerns, or need recommendations. Again, I cannot say enough.

This year at the conference, one of the speakers was a nurse known on   
TikTok as “Nurse Julie.” This was a great session. One comment posed by myself as questions and concerns about the industry were raised was what I see as our continued challenge in the industry. I hear this continual complaint from old and new Hospice owners. They grow frustrated with physicians referring patients nearly on death’s doorstep versus an earlier referral with a more extensive and robust hospice experience for the patient and family.

***How do we get physicians to refer to Hospice sooner???***

I wish I had the perfect answer to this question. Education, of course, is crucial. Perhaps we need the steppingstone of palliative care to help bridge that gap from aggressive treatment to hospice. A slower process and realization of the inevitable, while still supporting quality of life until the end of life. What this will take though, is the realization of the federal government is a need to better cover, Palliative Care.

And so, I say again, it is critical for Providers to support their State Associations who are your voices in front of those who matter. Right now, we need those voices. We are ending National Hospice and Palliative Care Month. My wish is that eventually there are more dollars for Palliative Care as more and more programs arise, and more and more physicians refer as we bridge the gap to Hospice.

I also want to take this time to thank you all for the work you do. Thanksgiving is a time of gratitude, but also can be a time where we find many of our families going through difficult times. Thank you for that extra compassion and empathy you always provide.

Enclosed is my latest video on our YouTube Channel talking about my Hospice journey. Please feel free to listen and subscribe as we continue to provide a space for clinicians to be supported.