Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association

Public Policy Guiding Principles

The Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association (HPNA) asserts that it is the responsibility and obligation of clinicians to address hospice and palliative care public policy and regulatory issues that impact the health-related quality of life of patients and caregivers living with serious illness. HPNA acts independently and with collaborating organizations to address hospice and palliative care issues at the national, state, local and regional levels. HPNA serves on the board of the National Coalition for Hospice and Palliative Care and works collaboratively with other national coalitions.

2020 Advocacy Agenda

HPNA advocates for public policy and legislative and regulatory actions that address:

- Ensuring equitable access to comprehensive palliative care as defined by the National Consensus Project Clinical Guidelines for Quality Palliative Care, across the lifespan and illness continuums.

- Promoting ethical and competent provision of hospice and palliative care based upon the expressed goals of the patient and family caregivers. This includes the relief of suffering in all of its manifestations, physical and emotional, to allow patients to achieve the highest quality of life.

- The legitimate use and appropriate access to medications in palliative care.

- Nursing workforce funding and professional education as they impact hospice and palliative care.

- Equitable funding for hospice and palliative care research.

- Scope of nursing practice - ensuring that nurses at all levels and in all jurisdictions may practice to the full extent of their professional license, with special emphasis on the practice of hospice and palliative nurses.

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