

# Lifesong Hospice and Palliative Care

## Patient Care Policies and Procedures

### Levels of Care PC.L15

**Regulatory Citation(s):**

42 CFR 418.302

**L-Tag(s):**

None

**POLICY:** Lifesong Hospice and Palliative Care offers the four levels of care, as provided for by the Medicare Hospice Benefit, to meet the needs of patients and their families. The levels of care include routine home care, continuous home care, inpatient respite care and general inpatient care

**PROCEDURE:**

1. Routine home care is the most frequently utilized level of care, provided in the patient's residence. A residence may be a skilled nursing facility, assisted living facility, personal care home or any other setting that is considered the patient's home.
2. Continuous home care is provided during a period of crisis to achieve palliation or management of acute medical symptoms to maintain the patient at home.
3. Inpatient respite care is provided in a contracted facility to allow respite for family members or others caring for the patient. This level of care is limited to no more than five consecutive days for each respite stay.
4. The general inpatient level of care is provided in a contracted hospital, inpatient hospice unit or skilled nursing facility when a patient's need for pain or acute or chronic symptom management cannot be managed in other settings.
5. The hospice utilizes all levels of care and has criteria for determining appropriate levels of care for each patient based on his/her evolving needs.
6. Documentation in the clinical record supports the level of care received by each patient and clearly reflects the need for any changes in the patient's level of care.
7. When a patient's condition changes and requires a change in level of care, the hospice RN notifies the attending physician (if any) and the hospice physician and revises the patient's plan of care accordingly.

<b>Created:</b>	<b>Reviewed:</b>	<b>Revised:</b>	<b>Effective:</b>
6/18	2/19		4/2019
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8. Members of the interdisciplinary group providing care to the patient are advised of any changes to the patient's level of care and detailed information is provided in the clinical record to ensure continuity of care.

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