

LIVE DISCHARGE: REPERCUSSIONS AND MITIGATION STRATEGIES



DESCRIPTION:

Between 15% and 20% of hospice patients are discharged while alive. One-third of these patients die within 6 months, often without hospice readmission. Join preeminent researcher Stephanie Wladkowski to discuss the impact of this challenging reality and suggestions for improving both policy and practice. Dr. Wladkowski will be joined by Kimberly Dansie and Liza Johnson of Community Nursing Services to explore how to communicate with patients and families to mitigate the impact of live discharge, as well as how this situation impacts the hospice metrics tracked by CMS and published in the CASPER report.

PROGRAM DETAILS:

This presentation features experienced professionals offering their own expertise on the topic. On the screen, you will see the slide presentation and will be able to hear the experts talking and presenting. If you login for the live version of the program, you'll also have the opportunity to email or text the experts' questions that they will discuss and answer during the program's Q & A session.

LIVE DATE:	January 14, 2025
TIME:	Noon to 1:30pm ET
ON DEMAND:	Available for 6 months; until July 14, 2025
LENGTH:	90 minutes
CEs:	1.5 hours
CONTENT LEVEL:	The program is mainly for professionals already working in the field but is practical for all levels of education – entry level, intermediate or advanced.
TARGET AUDIENCE:	Health care clinicians, social service clinicians and others working in the hospice, palliative care, counseling, hospital, nursing home, funeral home, or faith community environments

This program will be live on the air date, recorded and made available for on demand viewing. The recorded program will be available approximately a day after the live event.

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

To view the program, you will need a computer and screen, reliable internet access, and speakers.

TEST LINK for live program Audio and Video: <https://zoom.us/test>

Technical Questions? Please go to <https://zoom.us/> and click “support”

PROGRAM FEES/MATERIALS:

Registration includes continuing education and on-demand viewing for 6 months from live date.

Single Webinar Registration

Individual Viewer: Member: FREE | Non-member: \$35.00
Organizational Viewing: Member: FREE | Non-member: \$135.00

HOW TO REGISTER:

Register directly online, on HFA's website: <https://www.hospicefoundation.org>

MATERIALS AREA:

Materials are available on HFA's website at <https://hospicefoundation.org/Shop-HFA/My-Account>. From here, click on "Orders/Courses." *Information will be posted to your account as they become available.*

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

At the conclusion of this webinar, participants will be able to:

1. Describe the characteristics of live discharge from hospice care due to decertification as a unique care transition.
 2. Summarize policy and practice challenges within current discharge practices.
 3. Explain the challenges and best practices for revocations from both the patient and hospice company point of views
 4. Describe how CMS measure patient experience (CAHPS) and live discharges (CASPER) and the importance of using the data from these reports
 5. List strategies for preventing unnecessary live discharges
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PROGRAM OUTLINE:

1. Context of the types of live discharges (5 minutes)
 2. Patient and caregiver needs for a supportive live discharge (6 minutes)
 3. Gaps and challenges of live discharge (6 minutes)
 4. Implications and importance of advocacy (7 minutes)
 5. Development of a standardized live discharge protocol (8 minutes)
 6. Overview of Community Nursing Services (4 minutes)
 7. Impact of Live Discharge on the hospice agency (7 minutes)
 - a. Census Growth
 - b. Team Morale
 - c. CAP Liability
 8. Strategies to avoid unnecessary discharges (20 minutes)
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CONTINUING EDUCATION (CE) CREDITS:

This program is valid for 1.5 continuing education contact hours. CE hours are available for 6 months, until July 14, 2025.

A complete list of board approvals for this webinar program is posted to HFA's website at www.hospicefoundation.org on the program's registration page.

COURSE COMPLETION REQUIREMENTS:

Participants must attend the entire 1.5 hour program. Partial credit is not awarded. Participants must also complete the entire CE process online which includes a required evaluation form and exam. The exam must be completed at 80% or above (the exam may be re-taken, if necessary).

EXPERT PANELISTS:

Stephanie P. Wladkowski, PhD, LMSW, APHSW-C, is the Larry & Patty Benz Professor and a Professor of Social Work at Bowling Green State University. Dr. Wladkowski has several years of clinical practice experience as an independent licensed social worker in hospice and palliative care, which directly informs her research and teaching in health, aging, interprofessional education, and end-of-life care. Dr. Wladkowski's main research interest is focused on live discharge from hospice, or when individuals stop receiving hospice care due to no longer meeting the eligibility requirements. She continues to advance knowledge in this under-researched area through exploring the impact of live discharge on individuals with life-limiting illnesses and their caregivers, with careful attention to policy implications and practice opportunities.

Liza Johnson, RN, MBA, BSN, CHPN, is Vice President of Clinical Services at Community Nursing Service Home Health and Hospice, West Valley City, UT. Liza has work in the home health and hospice industry for almost 19 years. She obtained her Bachelor's in Nursing from Westminster School of Nursing and a Master's of Business Administration from the University of Wyoming. She started with Community Nursing Services as an RN case manager and served in multiple positions. Now as the Vice President of Clinical Services, she has a greater opportunity in the development of innovative programs providing exceptional medical care in a patient's own home. She has been an integral partner in the development of new collaborations with the University of Utah Medical Center and Huntsman Cancer Hospital including, the Intensive Outpatient Clinic, Huntsman at Home, Inpatient hospice and now Heal at Home. On a personal note, Liza shares that "I am a mother of four young adults and look forward watch our youngest march in the University of Utah's Marching Band this fall."

Kimberly Dansie, MBA HFA, is Vice President of Community Outreach at Community Nursing Service Home Health and Hospice, West Valley City, UT. Kimberly is passionate about improving the final years of Seniors and has worked towards that goal as a healthcare executive in the post-acute space for over 30 years. She earned a Bachelor's of Science degree and a Certificate in Gerontology from the University of Utah and a Master of Business Administration with an emphasis in service marketing from New York University. As a licensed Health Facility Administrator, Kimberly has provided leadership to long-term care facilities, home health and hospice agencies. At Community Nursing Services, Kimberly leads the Philanthropy, Marketing and Communications and Growth teams. She currently serves on the Medical Advisory Committee for the State of Utah Department of Health and Human Services. Kimberly spends her free time hiking in the mountains and desert.

REVIEWER:

Angela Novas, MSN, RN, CRNP, ACHPN, *Senior Medical Officer*, Hospice Foundation of America

BIBLIOGRAPHY/REFERENCES:

Hunt, L.J. and Harrison, K.L. (2021), Live discharge from hospice for people living with dementia isn't "graduating"—It's getting expelled. *J Am Geriatr Soc*, 69: 1457-1460. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jgs.17107>

Kenny, A. (2018). *Making tough decisions about end-of-life care in dementia*. Hopkins Press.

Luth EA, Brennan C, Hurley SL, et al. Hospice Readmission, Hospitalization, and Hospital Death Among Patients Discharged Alive from Hospice. *JAMA Netw Open*. 2024;7(5):e2411520. doi:10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2024.11520

The Alzheimer's Association www.alz.org

Wladkowski SP, & Wallace CL. The Forgotten and Misdiagnosed Care Transition: Live Discharge From Hospice Care. Gerontol Geriatr Med. 2022 Jul 12;8:23337214221109984. doi: 10.1177/23337214221109984. PMID: 35846976; PMCID: PMC9280841.

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CONFLICT OF INTEREST:

Planners (Panelists and Review Committee Members) disclose no conflict of interest relative to this educational activity. None of the planners or presenters for this educational activity have relevant financial relationships to disclose with ineligible companies.

FOR QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, OR ADDRESSING GRIEVANCES

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