Palliative Care Social Worker

Job Title: Palliative Care Services Team Social Worker

Reports to: Regional Palliative Care Director

Status: Full Time

Purpose of the Position:

- Provides critical psycho-social support to palliative care patients through the palliative care services consult team.
- Uses their professional background and skills to assist the team and facilitate patient-family meetings and assists team, attending physicians, staff, and patient and family in the clarification of the goals of care and the plan of care.
- Assists the Palliative Care Coordinator in ensuring excellent patient care services, coordinating educational and outreach services, leading quality improvement initiatives, and linking team efforts with other hospital departments and with outpatient and community services.
- Coordinates team efforts with appropriate hospital support departments to ensure smooth discharge planning and clear follow-up post discharge; may assist in the development of creative community or system care options for patients.
- Serves as a liaison with the hospital hospice and other community hospices, home health, and nursing homes to ensure care coordination and appropriate assignments and resource allocation to meet patient needs throughout the continuum of care.

Job Summary:

- Participation in the interdisciplinary palliative care services team and provision of direct patient care and appropriate related services to the patient and family.
- Facilitation of formal and informal meetings regarding patient and family communication and decision making.
- Participation in the development and review of appropriate protocols and processes that support appropriate referral and consistent care.
- Participation in developing and implementing appropriate measures of patient care quality and satisfaction.

Job Responsibilities:
• Daily availability for the physician group and for social work support to the consult team.
• Participation in on-call coverage with the interdisciplinary team, seven days per week.
• Weekly attendance at interdisciplinary team meetings to review active cases.
• Attendance at monthly and periodic team meetings for the operational and administrative functions of the palliative care service.
• Development delivery of appropriate educational initiatives within the hospital or in other settings.
• Ad hoc activities to support educational and outreach goals of the palliative care service

  - Acts as spokesperson for the palliative care program at the hospital’s discretion.
  - Works closely with hospital leadership to enhance the palliative care service’s community outreach to physicians, the public, healthcare facilities and other applicable organizations in the community.
  - Works with the Director of Development to secure philanthropic support for palliative care services.

• Development and coordination of bereavement program at the hospital, and coordination with the hospice.
• Participation in institution-wide education efforts involving staff social workers, social work interns and students.
• Participation in ongoing research and quality improvement projects on an as-needed basis.

**Job Qualifications:**

• LMSW preferred.
• Advanced Certified Hospice and Palliative Social Worker (ACHP-SW) preferred.
• Demonstrated evidence of experience in palliative care settings, such as hospice.
• 3-5 years of inpatient, outpatient, or home-based social work.
• Experience with quality improvement methodology preferred.
• Availability 5 days a week, full time, and participation in 24/7 call rotation.