

Hospice Care at Home: A Guide to Caring for Your Dying Loved One at Home (Alzheimers)

Starr Calo-oy, Bob Calo-oy

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Chapter 1 The Diagnosis What Now? This chapter explains how the family caregiver is to change their own mental attitude to be of the utmost benefit to their loved one who has just gotten news from their doctor that they have a terminal illness. It also addresses how to listen effectively and how to talk about this highly sensitive issue. If the loved one has dementia, how to handle their grief is explained when they cannot share their feelings with them because they don't understand what is happening. Chapter 2 Interview with Your Loved One This chapter addresses the dying persons financial & legal matters in regard to how the family caregiver can help. It identifies the questions to ask him so to avoid last minute chaos. Fifteen questions are listed. It helps the family gather all of the vital information and develop a file system so they can reach for it at a moments notice. Chapter 3 Planning the Funeral Included in this chapter is how to select a funeral home and how to involve the loved one in planning their own funeral (if they care to participate). Every detail of the funeral is addressed with suggestions for the reader. It tells them what they will need to supply the funeral director with when the arrangements are made in advance, the day their loved one dies and the day of the funeral. Chapter 4 Preparing for Death at Home Easily applicable tips and suggestions on how the family caregiver can set their home and their loved ones room for complete care are covered in this helpful chapter. Included are the supplies and medical equipment s identification and purpose, fifteen tips for preparation to make their work easier and the house comfortable, warm and inviting for family and friends who come to visit. Chapter 5 Coping with the Flood of Mixed Emotions Identification of common emotions of the family caregiver, family and patient are addressed including denial, anger, guilt and fear. Suggestions for the reader and points to ponder are included to help put objectivity into focus. Chapter 6 Medical Problems of the Bed Bound Person The authors instruct the caregiver on what to do about common elderly medical problems and ailments that may arise when their loved one is confined to the bed. Chapter 7 Physical, Hands-on Care: Tips Many people who are not in the medical field, geriatric specific, have no idea how to change an adult diaper or how to give an adult a shower or bed bath. This chapter gives detailed instructions in a down-to-earth, common laypersons style, on how to do these procedures. In addition to this, they receive instructions and tips on how to do oral care, nail care, hair care shaving needs on another person. Chapter 8 The Role Hospice Plays Most people mistakenly believe that hospice is a place to go instead of a philosophy and service for end of life care. This chapter explains exactly what hospice is and identifies and explains in detail, the role of each member of the hospice team and how they care for their loved one in the home. Chapter 9 Ten Keys to Avoid Caregiver Burn-out This chapter focuses on the family caregiver and provides numerous suggestions they may have forgotten, being so intensely involved in the daily hands-on care of their loved one, so that they can remain objective regarding that care while eliminating frustration and fatigue. Chapter 10 Open House: A Joyful Farewell Three weeks before Starr s own mother, Gin, died in her home, the family held a living memorial for her by inviting all of her friends and relatives. There were 150 attendees who, over the course of 4 hours, told Gin the impact of her life in theirs. Starr details the planning of such an event for those who have prior notice of terminal illness and tells her mother's story.

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Kristine Toomey:

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