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**“ The consequences of late hospice admissions may be a series of delayed or missed opportunities for successful symptom control and emotional support. ”**

“

The physician is a key member of the hospice team. From initiating the discussion about hospice to signing the death certificate, the physician's involvement is crucial to the patient, family and other members of the hospice team. Yet many physicians, especially those who refer to hospice only occasionally, may not be aware of the full range of services offered by hospice or the tremendous growth experience at the end of life that can occur within patients and families.

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