

Perinatal Hospice Services: Early Intervention Program

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Purpose

As a component of the Children's Program, we provide psycho-spiritual counseling and support to families whose unborn babies have been diagnosed with life-threatening or life-limiting conditions.

Members of the Children's Program work with expectant parent(s) (and other children if appropriate/desired) to identify their needs, concerns, and goals concerning the following:

- A. Dealing with the remainder of the pregnancy
- B. Preparing for the birth and death of their baby
- C. The understanding and coping of young children in the family
- D. The time of delivery and immediate post-partum period
- E. Decision making re: treatment and care goals for baby
- F. Transitioning care from hospital to home
- G. Caring for baby at home
- H. Creating memories, treasures, and keepsakes
- I. Preparation for baby's death at home
- J. Funeral/Memorial service, bereavement follow-up

Procedure

1. An order to meet with mother/family must be obtained from mother's obstetrician/MD. Written information will be provided to the primary physician on the "Early Intervention Program".
2. A third party collector will obtain verification/authorization of insurance benefits for counseling, support, and potential hospice care once the baby is born.
3. If denied, Endowment Funds may be accessed.
4. A plan of care for initial visit and subsequent psychosocial/spiritual visits will be written. Skilled Nursing care of the pregnant woman (prenatal health care) will **not** be covered in this program.
5. "Birthing Plan" to be developed with parents. Including information on Children's Program "Early Intervention Program", how and when to contact team, etc.
6. The Children's Team member(s) will collaborate with inpatient professionals' efforts to support family. Contribution to plan of care for newborn includes discharge planning and assistance at (upon parents' request) time of death if infant dies during hospitalization.

7. Upon admission to “Early Intervention Program”, the following consents will be signed:
 - a.) Informed consent home services
 - b.) Patient/caregiver Bill of Rights and Responsibilities
 - c.) “Early Intervention Program” Program Statement
 - d.) Receive copy of “Baby’s Bill of Rights”
8. When baby is born, he/she is assessed for appropriateness for hospice program admission. Assessment and follow-up orders for Plan of Care are obtained from baby’s primary physician or pediatrician. Insurance authorization is pursued.
9. Children’s Program team will provide inservice/educational and grief support to inpatient staff upon request.
10. Family Centered Bereavement follow-up will be made available to parents/family after baby’s death via home visit or in patient visit by bereavement staff