



East Texas Hospice & Palliative Care Conference

Date: August 7th, 2025

UT Tyler Academic Bldg. (The “H” Building)

11937 Highway 271, Tyler, TX 75708

This educational activity is jointly provided by AXIS Medical Education and Texas-New Mexico Hospice & Palliative Care Organization

AGENDA

8:30am – 9:00am | Registration/Breakfast/Welcome Attendees/Announcements

9:00am – 10:00am | QAPI for the Whole TEAM | Lauren Templeton, DO, FAAHPM, HMDC, The Pennant Group and Weatherbee Resources | Your QAPI program must be an agency-wide, data-driven, quality-assessment, and performance-improvement program. Now, where do we start?

10:00am – 10:10am | BREAK

10:10am – 11:10am | Core Competencies for Hospice Leadership and Interdisciplinary Collaboration | Candice Chappell, RN, BSN, Chief Operations Officer, Solaris Healthcare & Hospice | The hospice medical director plays a key role in coordinating the care of the patient starting from prior to admission and beyond their death. This presentation will highlight the core competencies a medical director should continually develop to optimize the care patients receive and ensure regulatory compliance. As an equal member of the hospice interdisciplinary group, the medical director can learn from and teach other group members in hopes of continually improving patient care and outcomes while elevating the quality of the entire hospice organization.

11:10am – 11:20am – BREAK

11:20am – 12:20am | Documentation for Eligibility & Audit Readiness | Hunter Mercer, BSN, RN, Hospice in the Pines | Learners will be able to explain the key elements of the physician’s eligibility statement. They will also be able to identify the essential components of strong documentation for both initial and comprehensive assessments across all disciplines. Additionally, learners will gain an understanding of how measurable care goals in the hospice plan of care are linked to QAPI (Quality Assurance and Performance Improvement) measures.

12:20pm – 1:30pm Lunch

1:30pm – 2:30pm | Palliative Care & Symptom Management | Sean Seelbach MBA-HCM, BSN, RN, CHPN, Executive Director, Three Oaks Hospice | What is palliative care? This session will cover the core principles of palliative care and how it differs from hospice, offering clear guidance on when and how to integrate palliative services into clinical practice. Participants will learn how evidence-based tools are used for

symptom assessment, explore strategies for managing complex symptoms such as pain, dyspnea, and nausea, and gain skills for navigating difficult conversations around goals of care and advance planning. The session will also highlight the psychosocial and spiritual dimensions of care, emphasizing support for both patients and their families.

2:30pm – 2:40pm – BREAK

2:40pm - 3:40pm | HOPE Unpacked: A Hospice Leaders' Guide To What's Next | Chris Gallarneau, Senior Education Consultant, MAC Legacy | This session will unpack the new Hospice Outcomes and Patient Evaluation (HOPE) tool - what it is, how it differs from the retiring Hospice Item Set (HIS), and what your team needs to know to integrate it smoothly before the October 1, 2025, transition date.

3:40pm – 3:50pm | BREAK

3:50pm – 4:50pm | Communicating the Value of Hospice: Strategies to Enhance Quality and Length of Life | Taylor Tarr, RN, Community Education Representative, Heart to Heart Hospice | How to promote the benefits of hospice from a non-marketing team member. This interdisciplinary education session will explore effective communication strategies for promoting timely access to hospice and palliative care. Emphasis will be placed on how nurses, social workers, and other non-marketing team members can engage in values-based discussions with physicians, patients, families, and other healthcare professionals to reframe hospice as an evidence-based intervention that enhances quality and—often—quantity of life.

Texas & New Mexico Hospice Organization is an approved provider of continuing education for Hospice Administrators by the Texas Health and Human Services Commission.

Learners are advised that accredited status does not imply endorsement by the provider or ANCC of any commercial products displayed in conjunction with an activity. CEUs: Pending, check back soon.

ACCREDITED CONTINUING EDUCATION

Accreditation Statement



In support of improving patient care, this activity has been planned and implemented by AXIS Medical Education and Texas-New Mexico Hospice & Palliative Care Organization. AXIS Medical Education is jointly accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME), the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE), and the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC), to provide continuing education for the healthcare team.



Social Workers

As a Jointly Accredited Organization, AXIS Medical Education is approved to offer social work continuing education by the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) Approved Continuing Education (ACE) program. Organizations, not individual courses, are approved under this program. State and provincial regulatory boards have the final authority to determine whether an individual course may be accepted for continuing

education credit. AXIS Medical Education maintains responsibility for this course. Social workers completing this course receive 6.25 continuing education credit.

Disclosure of Relevant Financial Relationships

AXIS Medical Education requires faculty, instructors, authors, planners, directors, managers, peer reviewers, and other individuals who are in a position to control the content of this activity to disclose all personal financial relationships they may have in the past 24 months with ineligible companies. An ineligible entity is any organization whose primary business is producing, marketing, selling, re-selling, or distributing healthcare products used by or on patients. All relevant financial relationships are identified and mitigated prior to initiation of the planning phase for an activity.

AXIS has mitigated and disclosed to learners all relevant financial relationships disclosed by staff, planners, faculty/authors, peer reviewers, or others in control of content for this activity.

Disclosure of a relationship is not intended to suggest or condone bias in any presentation but is made to provide participants with information that might be of potential importance to their evaluation of a presentation or activity. Disclosure information for faculty, authors, course directors, planners, peer reviewers, and/or relevant staff is provided with this activity.

The following faculty reported no financial relationships they have with ineligible companies of any amount during the past 24 months:

Name of Faculty	
Sean Seelbach, MBA-HCM, BSN, RN, CHPN	Taylor Tarr, RN
Chris Gallarneau	Hunter Murry, RN
Lauren Templeton, DO, FAAHPM, HMDC	Candice Chappell, RN, BSN

Name of Planner/Manager/Peer Reviewer/Relevant Staff	Reported Financial Relationship
Keith Parker, MBA	Nothing to disclose
Polly Maines, LMSW	Nothing to disclose
Schana Rosales	Nothing to disclose
Brandie Baker, CAE	Nothing to disclose
Kristy Morris, MBA, BSN, RN, CHPN	Nothing to disclose
Sean Seelbach	Nothing to disclose
Taylor Tarr, RN	Nothing to disclose
Heather Collum	Nothing to disclose
John Givens	Nothing to disclose

CONFERENCE INFORMATION:

Overview:

The purpose of this educational activity is to enhance the comfort and skills of the General and Hospice and Palliative Care Professional by addressing skills for working with providers, patients, and families with multiple disciplines to serve the patients and families.

Learning Objectives:

- Identify strategies for enhancing interprofessional communication and collaboration within hospice and

- palliative care teams to improve patient and family outcomes.
- Explore innovative methods for documenting patient care for eligibility.

Disclaimer

Participants have an implied responsibility to use the newly acquired information to enhance patient outcomes and their own professional development. The information presented in this activity is not meant to serve as a guideline for patient management. Any procedures, medications, or other courses of diagnosis or treatment discussed in this activity should not be used by clinicians without evaluation of patient conditions and possible contraindications on dangers in use, review of any applicable manufacturer's product information, and comparison with recommendations of other authorities.

Requirements for Social Worker Credit:

- Attend/participate in the educational activity and review all course materials.
- Complete the CE Attestation form online by **11:59 pm ET May 24, 2025**. Instructions will be provided. If you do not enter the online portal by the above date, you will not be able to retrieve your statement of participation.
- Upon successful completion of the online form, your statement of completion will be presented to you for you to print and save.