

NEWS NOW

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Hospice patient, Keith, with Cindy Rasmussen, Spiritual Counselor



Dr Jim Roberts, Hospice Medical Director and the Hospice interdisciplinary team at a weekly meeting




Hospice patient, Keith, with Mike Swenby, RN /Patient Coordinator

Why Wait?

Home Health & Hospice has produced a new video that tells the story of hospice. We started with a script. But the words from the interviews ended up coming from the heart, unscripted. So did the actions that communicate the compassion and caring that is hospice. The final result is the video titled "You Are Not Alone".

The objective was to produce a video that told the story of hospice and the many benefits of receiving care from a Hospice. The story is told by a current patient, a caregiver and Home Health & Hospice employees.

One of the messages shared was "why wait"? If Hospice is decided too late, the patient and family may not receive the full benefit of all the care that is available. Another message heard from Patricia, a patient, as well as from Joyce a caregiver, was about the comfort and support they received from the hospice team to address the many emotional issues surrounding them and their loved ones during this difficult time.

You may view the video on our website. Access it from our home page, or under Hospice Services tab. www.mayoclinichealthsystem.org Select Eau Claire, and then Home Health & Hospice. 

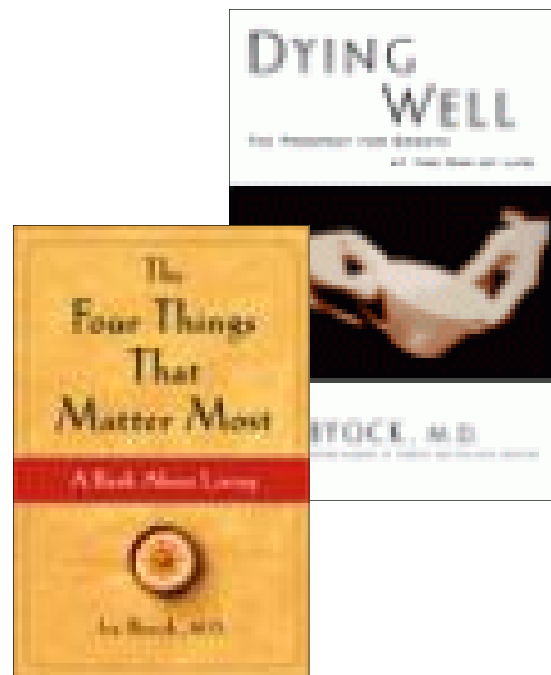


Consider these Books

In October, Mayo Clinic Health System—Home Health & Hospice initiated a collaboration to bring the film “Consider the Conversation” to Eau Claire. Motivated by personal experiences with loss, two long-time friends, Mike Bernhagen and Terry Kaldhusdal, produced *Consider the Conversation*, a powerful and inspiring film that examines multiple perspectives on end-of-life care. The film includes intimate accounts from patients, family members, doctors, nurses, clergy, social workers and experts from around the country on the emotional, physical and social burdens associated with dying.

In addition to the general public, the community event drew professionals from both the health care and spiritual community. Sponsors provided resources and answered questions about end of life care.

The UWEC Book Store sold the video for personal viewing, as well as related books. The two most popular books were by Ira Byock M.D: *DYING WELL* and *THE FOUR THINGS THAT MATTER MOST*. Dr. Byock is a physician specializing in palliative care and is a long-time public advocate for improving care at the end of life. These books have become core reading on the subject and are used extensively in the counseling of patients and families dealing with advanced illness. 🏠



Making the Connection

While promoting the Consider the Conversation community event, Dr. Jim Roberts, Hospice Medical Director for Home Health & Hospice spoke at the Mayo Clinic Health System Monthly Management Meeting.

Afterwards, one of the comments Dr. Roberts received was from an employee that wanted to share his personal and passionate connection to the subject of end-of-life care.

The employee shared, "I have spent a lifetime trying to deliver the same message to my patients, family and friends." He went on to say "You are conceived...you will die. Today, tomorrow, one hundred ten years from now."

He went on to say that when he was eighteen and working as a nurses aide in a nursing home, he would sit up at night with his patients that could not sleep and they would discuss "If you have a choice, where would you prefer to die? Who would you want there? What do you want said on your behalf? Music? Kids? Family?...etc."

"If you had a choice, where would you want to die? Who would you want there...."

"The conversations were wonderful, listening to these dear old folks come alive, smiling and laughing. At that stage of their life

they were given a purpose, a responsibility, one last task to fulfill."

"I promised them all, if I was there, if they died on the toilet, I would clean them and carry them back to bed, tuck them in and comb their hair and let their loved ones know they died peacefully and we'd just not

mention that toilet thing.

It always got a laugh. But I was serious, we cater to deliveries of newborns, why not a little class and dignity when they die!" 🏠

Stay home, stay independent

Home Health & Hospice provides high quality health care, while remaining in the familiar comfort of your own home, whether for acute or chronic illness or as a follow-up to hospital care.

Referrals can be made by the person needing services, family, physician, clergy, health and/or social service agencies. 🏠



To make a referral contact

Theresa Myer,
Intake Nurse

715-838-5988

Monday – Friday
8am to 4:30pm

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Consider the Conversation – October Community Event



Dr Donn Dexter emcee (center), with the film's producers Terry Kaldhusdal and Mike Bernhagen



More photos from the October "Consider the Conversation" community event may be viewed at our website.



You can find us at www.mayoclinichealthsystem.org under Wisconsin, and then select Home Health & Hospice under Eau Claire. 🏠

www.mayoclinichealthsystem.org (Wisconsin, then select Home Health & Hospice)

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