



Vitruvian Health

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INFORMATION

Daryl Cole: 706-272-6168

November is National Home Care and Hospice Month

DALTON, Ga. (November 9, 2023) – During November, the National Association for Home Care (NAHC) encourages all communities to celebrate National Home Care and Hospice Month, honoring the millions of nurses, home care aides, therapists and social workers who make a difference for the patients and families they serve.

“At Hamilton Home Health, we strive to offer personalized care in the familiarity of the patient’s own home,” says Amanda Horne, director of Hamilton Home Health. “Our dedicated team will tailor the plan of care to promote recovery and enhance the patient’s quality of life. In the case of Hamilton Home Health, a patient is not only receiving medical assistance but gaining a partner in the journey toward better health.”

Home health care is medical care that is appropriate for people suffering from chronic illness or recovering from acute injury or illness who need skilled care to remain at home. Services include medication management, wound care, physical therapy, occupational therapy and other skilled services provided by licensed individuals. Some patients qualify for additional services such as home health aides and medical social workers when necessary to support skilled services.

Care requires a physician’s order and requires that the patient be under the care of a physician. Most insurers also require that the patient be homebound, meaning the patient only leaves home infrequently and it is very difficult to do so.

Home health care can be mistaken for personal or companion care (or non-medical care), which includes transportation, errands, light housekeeping, meal preparation and assistance with activities of daily living. Private sitters and some private and government agencies provide this type of care.

For more information on Hamilton Home Health, please visit VitruvianHealth.com/homehealth or call 706-226-2848.

When a disease process has become terminal and patients and families are ready to shift the focus of care from curative treatment to comfort care and symptom control, hospice care allows patients to remain in familiar surroundings at the end of life. Hospice care provides

support and education to the patient's family during the patient's time on hospice and for a specified time after the death of the patient.

"Hamilton Hospice offers comfort, dignity and support when it matters most," says Misti Bowers, director of Hamilton Hospice.

Hospice provides four levels of care, including routine home care, respite care, general inpatient care and continuous home care. These levels are determined based on the patient's needs and can be provided in the home, in a nursing home or assisted living facility or, in some cases, in the hospital.

Sondra Ragan's mother was cared for by Hamilton Hospice this year and shared her appreciation of staff members. "Words cannot express how awesome Hamilton Hospice is!" she said. "The wonderful team members are each fulfilling their calling and are angels that provided so much comfort during my mother's final chapter of her journey."

Hospice is appropriate when patients with a life-limiting illness discover that continued aggressive disease treatment is no longer effective, beneficial or desired.

"Accepting hospice services does not mean you are giving up," says Bowers. "It's about ensuring quality of life and honoring what matters most to each patient."

Patients may revoke their hospice benefit at any time if they feel the need to resume more aggressive care. Patients can also re-enroll in hospice if their condition worsens.

"National Hospice Month gives us an opportunity to shine a light on the extraordinary dedication of our nurses, aides, social workers, chaplains, volunteers and support staff," says Bowers. "Their work helps families navigate end-of-life care with compassion, respect and peace."

For more than 40 years, Hamilton Hospice has been committed to serving patients and families in Whitfield, Murray, Gordon, Catoosa and Walker counties – offering comprehensive hospice care tailored to individual needs and values.

Hospice care is a benefit of Medicare and most private insurers if the patient continues to meet the necessary criteria. The benefit pays for all care, equipment (including hospital beds and oxygen) and medications associated with the patient's terminal diagnosis. Hamilton Hospice is committed to caring for all patients, regardless of an individual's ability to pay.

For more information on Hamilton Hospice, visit VitruvianHealth.com/hospice or call 706-278-2848.

Home health and hospice are part of the continuum of services that are provided by Vitruvian Health (formerly Hamilton Health Care System), which also includes hospital care,

cardiovascular services, rehabilitation and wellness, ambulatory infusion, cancer care, behavioral health, long-term care, wound care and others.

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Photos:

Hamilton Home Health team members

Hamilton Hospice team members

About Vitruvian Health

Vitruvian Health, formerly Hamilton Health Care System, is a not-for-profit, fully integrated health system serving the Northwest Georgia and Southeast Tennessee regions. Vitruvian includes Hamilton Medical Center in Dalton, Ga., and Bradley Medical Center in Cleveland, Tenn., affiliated physician practices, walk-in care centers, retirement and skilled nursing centers, a diagnostic center, a cancer institute, an institute for children with developmental delays, and more. Known for its advanced care and personalized service, Vitruvian Health offers innovative treatment options in state-of-the-art facilities while maintaining a compassionate, friendly and tranquil healing environment.

The Vitruvian name draws from the organization's recognizable da Vinci-inspired Vitruvian Man icon, which has been a prominent part of Hamilton's logo since 1976. Da Vinci's Vitruvian Man represents harmony, balance, and the interconnectedness of all aspects of health, perfectly aligning with Hamilton's integrated system of care.