

International Conference on Hospice & Palliative Care

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Palliative care before birth – Perinatal hospice through the eyes of the family

Development of new technology for pregnant woman has opened new experiences for families who embark on the journey of starting their families. Expectant parents receive more information about their unborn child than in years past. When that news includes congenital anomalies, complex cardiac anomalies and/or chromosomal anomalies, the journey to parenthood takes a sudden turn to unexpectancy. Referral to a perinatal hospice program is paramount in assisting the family through the rest of their journey. I will discuss the start-up of a perinatal hospice program, the key stakeholders who need to be involved, the ongoing impact that is made by referrals to both the family as well as the medical team caring for the mother through her pregnancy and delivery and the transition of the unborn child. Case-based stories will be used to demonstrate the key components of the perinatal hospice program from the initial meeting with the family and development of an advance directive for the unborn child, to supporting the family and delivery room personnel during the labor, as well as the potential transition from the hospital to home with the newborn infant under hospice level of care. The roles of the interdisciplinary team members will be highlighted throughout the discussion. Symptom management and end-of-life anticipatory guidance will also be discussed.

Biography

Kelly Cronin Komatz completed her medical education at Upstate Medical Center in 1988. She received her pediatric training at the OakKnoll Naval Hospital in Oakland California. She served as a general pediatrician in the United States Navy and was honorably discharged in 1996. She is board-certified in general pediatrics as well as hospice and palliative medicine. She is the Program Director for the University of Florida College of Medicine Jacksonville hospice/palliative medicine fellowship, and is Medical Director for the Bower Lyman Center for Medically Complex Children and the Community PedsCare Program of Community Hospice of Northeast Florida.

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