

To North Dakota Healthcare Service Providers,

There are North Dakotans with serious, long-term illnesses, who could benefit significantly from palliative care but do not have access to this type of service. To address this and any other gaps, a workgroup was formed by the North Dakota Center for Rural Health, North Dakota Department of Health, American Cancer Society, North Dakota Quality Health Associates, and Nancy Joyner Consulting P.C. (Palliative Care Clinical Nurse Specialist). This North Dakota Palliative Care workgroup has begun the work of addressing palliative care needs in our state by creating and conducting a survey to gain a better understanding of the gaps, barriers faced and resources needed. The goal of this survey is NOT to compare facilities but support efforts to increase palliative care services at local and state levels.

North Dakota hospitals, clinics, nursing homes, home health agencies, assisted living agencies and hospice programs will be asked to respond to this survey. As a provider of health care services, your facility has been identified to complete the electronic survey, which will be deployed by the North Dakota Center for Rural Health or North Dakota Palliative Care workgroup members beginning September 9th, 2016. Please complete the survey ([North Dakota Palliative Care Survey 2016](#)) on or before September 30th.

We are asking your assistance to identify staff member(s) to complete the survey who can best provide information about your organization's palliative care services, as described within the survey, even if those services are limited or do not exist. Please consider having a representative from each of the following departments or programs, complete the survey: in-patient and/or out-patient palliative care programs, cardiac rehabilitation, cancer care, kidney dialysis/diabetic care, respiratory care or pain management, if your organization provides one or more of these services.

The survey will take approximately 10 to 15 minutes to complete. As a respondent organization for this survey, you will have the ability to identify your organization's interest in receiving and sharing information related to palliative care with other organizations that are also engaged in this type of patient care.

Aggregated state and regional level survey results will be posted on the Honoring Choices website later this year and made available to your organization and other North Dakota stakeholders. A fact sheet with a summary of the results will also be made available on the Honoring Choices website. Notification will be sent out electronically via newsletter or by direct contact when the results are available and how to access them. The North Dakota Palliative Care workgroup, in conjunction with other organizations, will be developing a plan of action to address identified needs and gaps when the survey results are compiled. If your organization would like to be part of this process, please send an e-mail to one of the workgroup members listed below.

If you or other individuals from your organization have questions about the palliative care survey, please contact Lynette Dickson at lynette.dickson@med.und.edu

The Palliative Care Workgroup thanks you for your consideration of this request and we look forward to your organization's participation in the survey.

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