

Charles L. Pankratz, MD

President, Ventura Care Partners APC

Board Certified in Hospice and Palliative Medicine

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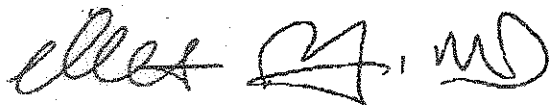
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Assisted Home Hospice and Home Care have operated in Ventura County for over 25 years. As their former Medical Director, I had the opportunity to initiate and expand outpatient Palliative Care Services starting in 2009. Our goal was to make sure patients and families had access to the same multidisciplinary support that makes the Medicare Hospice Benefit so effective. Our mission was to improve the ability of the patient and families to optimize the benefits of medical treatment when dose options were available. In circumstances where the patient could no longer participate in the treatment or their disease progressed to a terminal stage they were given the option of hospice support if that made sense to them. The support for our service, though unreimbursed, strengthened our principles and commitment to community based care.

I have spoken with the current medical director, whom I recommended for the job several years ago. Palliative Care is at the forefront of their goal to expand and improve their services in the community. They are eminently qualified to participate in the CMS project to expand hospice services to patients undergoing disease modifying therapy. They have thorough knowledge and experience in the management of patients in the home or skilled nursing facility, where those of us in the field of Hospice and Palliative Medicine believe quality of life and patient satisfaction with healthcare is most impacted. In my prior roles as Medical Director, I had support for Palliative Care program at all levels of the organization, including the owner who understood my reasons for starting such a patient-centered service. They understood the future which we now know as the present. If any further questions please do not hesitate to call or write.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Charles L. Pankratz, MD'. The signature is stylized and cursive.

Charles Pankratz, MD