The Iain Rennie Hospice at Home Annual Conference

Wednesday, 1 October 2008

Choices at the end of life - whose death is it anyway?

The Programme

08.45 Registration and coffee

09.15 Chairman’s introduction
Maddie Blackburn, Chief Executive, Iain Rennie Hospice at Home

09.30 What choices are we talking about?
Esther Rantzen CBE, journalist, television presenter and novelist
A well-known face on British television and Patron of the Iain Rennie Hospice at Home, Esther has made several ground-breaking documentaries on issues such as child abuse, mental health and childbirth, some of which resulted in changes in laws and practice. Her own experiences during the illness and subsequent death of her husband, Desmond Wilcox, led her to make ‘How to have a Good Death’ for the BBC which highlighted the postcode lottery that is palliative care in the UK.

10.15 Issues for Palliative Care for patients with dementia
Dr Victor Pace, Consultant in Palliative Medicine, St Christopher’s Hospice
Originally from Malta, Victor has been a consultant at St Christopher’s Hospice since 1999. He is a member of the steering group for Palliative Care in Dementia of the National Council for Palliative Care and is leading the Palliative Care for Dementia project, a three year community project in Croydon sponsored by the King’s Fund exploring the needs of patients dying of dementia and their families. He believes that palliative care still needs to find its role in caring for the growing number of these patients, avoiding under- and over-intervention, and will share his findings from the Croydon project.

11.00 Coffee

11.30 Treatment or palliation towards the end of life? Handling the lane changes
Dr Nick Bates, Consultant in Clinical Oncology, The Churchill, Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals NHS Trust
Nick studied at Cambridge University and the Oxford School of Clinical Medicine. Throughout his career he has been continuously involved in oncology teaching at Oxford Brookes and Oxford University Medical School as well as in numerous clinical trials. He will summarise the appropriate oncology interventions towards the end of life and how to move from oncology treatment to palliative and supportive care, taking into account individual patient expectations.

12.00 Non-medical prescribing in palliative care - who benefits?
Jane Jones, Clinical Nurse Specialist, Compton Hospice
Val Perry, Clinical Nurse Specialist, Compton Hospice
Jane trained at Queen Elizabeth School of Nursing in Birmingham. Working in palliative care since 1994, Jane has spent all her career providing care to patients at home. As part of her passion to improve services to community patients, Jane qualified as an independent Nurse Prescriber in July 2006. She has hands-on experience of collaborating with GPs and local PCTs to improve patient services through the development of non-medical prescribing.
Val worked as a community Nursing sister before joining Compton Hospice in 2002. Val pioneered non-medical prescribing and was one of the first team members to qualify. She successfully piloted non-medical prescribing with a GP practice in South Staffordshire and now regularly prescribes for her patients, across several practices.

Val and Jane will analyse the benefits to patients and staff and share best practice on safe prescribing and maintaining good communication with all parties.

13.00 Lunch

14.00 Choosing to die at home - the rewards and challenges from the family perspective
   Jill Wallis, IRHH user and Senior Lecturer, University of Bedford
   Jill has an MA Hons (Logic and Metaphysics and Moral Philosophy) from St Andrews University and has been a Senior Lecturer since 2003. After caring for her husband, Chris, with the help of Iain Rennie Hospice at Home nurses, Jill wrote an award-winning book of poetry which encapsulates the experience of surviving the death of a loved one. She will describe the practicalities of choosing to die at home, as well as the emotional impact on those who live on - when home becomes a hospital and loving becomes nursing.

14.45 Dying when I want to - assisted suicide and the legal context, 2008 update
   Dr Victoria Wheatley, Consultant in Palliative Medicine, Cwm Taf NHS Trust
   Victoria qualified from Birmingham University Medical School. She has an MA in the Ethics of Cancer and Palliative Care from Keele University and a Postgraduate Diploma in Palliative Medicine from the University of Wales College of Medicine. She is involved in palliative care training at undergraduate level and contributes to the postgraduate courses in Palliative Medicine offered by Cardiff University. She is returning to speak at the Conference to give an update on the international and national situation on assisted dying, with a discussion on the legal, ethical and professional implications.

15.30 Tea

16.00 Finish