

## Officially Recognized Subspecialty

Hospice and Palliative Medicine was officially recognized as a subspecialty by the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS).

**Certification is widely considered the gold standard of expertise in medicine because of its unique physician-directed approach for assessing qualifications.** Board certification demonstrates a physician's exceptional expertise in a particular specialty and/or subspecialty of medical practice. Although certification is sought and earned by physicians on a voluntary basis, it is recognized by government, healthcare systems, insurers, and patients themselves as an essential tool to judge that a physician has the knowledge, experience, and skills for providing quality health care within a given specialty or subspecialty. Since 2008, member boards of ABMS and AOA have certified physicians in the specialty-level practice of hospice and palliative medicine. Over 6,500 physicians currently hold subspecialty certification in hospice and palliative medicine, and Good Samaritan Hospice is proud that two of our Medical Directors have achieved this high standard.

Physicians who specialize in hospice and palliative medicine work with you and the hospice team to listen to patients and align their treatments with what's most important to them.

### A Team Approach to Hospice and Palliative Care

*Our Medical Directors and other members of the hospice team will:*

- *prescribe treatments to control pain and other uncomfortable symptoms*
- *assist with difficult medical decisions, helping patients and families weigh the pros and cons of various treatments*
- *guide patients and families in making a plan for living well, based on their needs, concerns, and goals for care*
- *provide emotional and spiritual support and guidance to patients and families.*

We recognize and support the existing relationship you have with your patients and families. Please let us know how we can improve the team approach to care for your patients needing hospice services.



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[www.goodsamhospice.org](http://www.goodsamhospice.org)

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*Thank you for reading Physician Matters. Please let us know how we can help answer your questions about hospice care and the benefits to your patients. We may print your question in a future issue.*

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alice Inouye".

Dr. Alice Inouye, *Medical Director*  
Good Samaritan Hospice  
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A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris W. Pile".

Dr. Chris Pile, *Associate Medical Director*  
Good Samaritan Hospice  
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