

**WHAT HAPPENS IF MY LOVED ONE PASSES AWAY
AT THE HOSPITAL?**

FAMILY INFORMATION SHEET

Even when anticipated, the passing of a loved one can feel bewildering and emotionally overwhelming. Greenwich Hospital has spiritual care and other support services available to provide support around the death of a loved one. Should you feel a need to discuss your feelings and reactions with a professional at the hospital, we will provide the emotional and spiritual support you request. In addition to this support, we have compiled the following information to help you to know what to expect at this difficult time.

- The primary care physician will notify you when your loved one passes away.
- Your loved one will remain in their room until you and your family have had the opportunity to say your farewells. You may or may not wish to view your loved one. Staff will be available to accompany you and your family to the room, honoring your privacy, but remaining close at hand.
- If needed, you will be offered a private space in order to talk with your loved one's doctor, hospital staff, and clergy. Access to a telephone for notifying other family members will also be provided.
- If you have made arrangements with a funeral home prior to your loved one's death, the name of the funeral home can be given to the nurse. However, you *need not* have identified a funeral home prior to leaving the hospital. Arrangements with a funeral home can be made from home. A list of funeral homes and cremation services in the immediate area is attached.
- No detailed administrative or legal forms need to be filled out before leaving the hospital. The nurse will only ask you to sign a list detailing personal belongings of your loved one that you wish to take home.
- After you have said your farewells and left the hospital, your loved one will be prepared for and transferred to the morgue.
- Our concern for your well being through the grieving process continues after you leave the hospital. Greenwich Hospital Hospice provides a bereavement support group for family members. This group is free and open to anyone in the community. Arrangements to attend this support group may be made by calling 203.863.3883.