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Development and Implementation of a Pediatric Palliative Care Program

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Developed and Implementation of a Pediatric Palliative Care Program

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Why is a Pediatric Palliative Care Program Important?

1. Builds family memories and preparation of child’s death while celebrating the child’s life.
2. Reduces length of stay
3. Implements care with end of life interventions
4. Improves quality of life
5. Provides hope in life and death.

Steps to Establishing a Pediatric Palliative Care Program

1. Tap Into Successful Resources
2. Establish a Family Advisory Board
3. Build a Business Plan
4. Integrate Existing Systems
5. Provide Focused Nursing Education
6. Build Collaboration
7. Measure Your Success

Needs Identified by Staff Nurses:

1. Helpful ways to assist the family in coping with the situation in a way that they will understand.
2. Pain issues and pain management.
3. How to initiate difficult conversations.
4. What to say and not to say.
5. How to support family and staff.
6. Age appropriate interventions.
7. Psychological and social support available.
8. Research that has been done on family needs.
9. What it takes to set up palliative care at home.
10. Case studies

Where do we go from here?

1. Consult team made up of:
   - Clinical Nurse Specialist
   - Social worker
   - Chaplain
2. Educational sessions have been provided and will continue to be offered
3. Referrals have increased 100% in 2013
4. Marketing and outreach will continue to be a priority.