

**Good Shepherd Hospice** provides the comfort, care and compassion needed by patients with life-limiting illnesses and their loved ones.

Hospice is a philosophy of care, not a specific place. Care is most often given in the patient's or family member's home, although it may take place in a hospital, skilled nursing facility or a facility dedicated to hospice services. Care is focused on patient comfort in an environment that affirms life and dignity, and provides additional support to family members. Hospice involves a whole network of professional caregivers that work in conjunction with the patient's primary care physician to provide care that meets the goals and values of the patient and family.

Hospice services are reimbursed by Medicare, Medicaid and most health insurance plans for both home care and in-patient care. We rely on donations and memorial gifts from organizations and individuals to continue to provide care to those in our community with little or no economic resources.

**Good Shepherd Hospice** is accessible to all individuals, regardless of race, color, religion, lifestyle or economic status.



**Good Shepherd Hospice**

**Catholic Health Services**

At the heart of health

110 Bi-County Blvd, Ste 114  
Farmingdale, NY 11735  
(631) 465-6363 / (516) 586-1420  
[www.goodshepherdhospice.net](http://www.goodshepherdhospice.net)



## Gabriel's Courage For the Physician and Referral Community



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## **Gabriel's Courage**

### **What is Gabriel's Courage?**

Gabriel's Courage is a family-centered perinatal program, offering a multidisciplinary team approach and continuum of care for families who choose to continue a pregnancy after receiving a life-limiting prenatal diagnosis. A program of Catholic Health Services (CHS) and Good Shepherd Hospice, Gabriel's Courage works in collaboration with the Diocese of Rockville Centre's peer ministry initiative to provide care to families.

### **What Services are Offered?**

Based on a model of compassionate support, Gabriel's Courage collaborates with obstetric, maternal-fetal medicine, and neonatal teams to provide antenatal education, counseling and birth planning services and neonatal hospice or home care services, when appropriate. Visits can be arranged at home, in the office or in the hospital. Nursing, social work, chaplaincy, child life specialists, bereavement counseling and palliative care support for symptom management are provided. Families will have support and care prior to birth, during delivery and after birth. Our team can help connect families with additional community resources as needed.

### **What is the Perinatal Comfort Birth Plan?**

The Perinatal Comfort Birth Plan is a thoughtful, compassionate approach that helps parents make important decisions about their child's birth, based on the medical information provided to them by their obstetrician and maternal-fetal medicine providers. It is a living document that serves as a guide for care and allows for ongoing changes as circumstances evolve. To ensure the parents' wishes are known, the Birth Plan is reviewed with the Labor and Delivery team prior to delivery.

The Birth Plan addresses choices related to labor, delivery and postpartum care for mother, baby and family. By creating a framework for decision making and a plan for the baby's care at the time of birth, it helps allay parents' fears and decrease feelings of isolation or abandonment. Also, the Birth Plan addresses decisions related to services such as sibling assistance and education, spiritual and/or cultural rituals, memories, photos and keepsake gathering, funeral and memorial planning, and the potential for home care/hospice services.

We are happy to provide a sample Perinatal Comfort Birth Plan for your review.

### **Who is Eligible for These Services?**

Any woman living in Nassau or Suffolk who has received a life-limiting prenatal diagnosis is eligible for Gabriel's Courage services.

Prenatal diagnoses that are appropriate for referral include: anencephaly, severe chromosomal abnormalities such as Trisomy 13 or Trisomy 18, Potter's syndrome, severe cardiac abnormalities that are not amenable to surgical correction, congenital diaphragmatic hernia, or other prenatal diagnoses with a high risk of stillbirth or death in the peripartum period.



### **Is There a Cost to the Patient?**

Generally, there are no costs to families for Gabriel's Courage program services. Insurance benefits for services such as home care or hospice will be used when appropriate.

### **Who Can Make a Referral?**

A primary physician, obstetrician, maternal-fetal medicine consultant, or neonatologist can arrange a referral. Also, families can self refer or be referred by their community clergy. Please call 631-465-6363 to make a referral.

### **How Will My Patient's Status be Communicated to Me?**

The Gabriel's Courage team will work closely with physicians to ensure that medical information is accurate and the physician team is aware of the parents' goals and decisions for care. A copy of the Birth Plan will be provided to all physicians involved in the patient's care and will be updated as necessary. A case conference format can be used to ensure consensus about the patient's care and communication about the Birth Plan among providers.

### **Does the Mother Have to be a CHS Patient?**

The Gabriel's Courage team works with all Nassau and Suffolk hospitals. Please contact us via the referral number.