

## NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Palliative Care Certified Physician Christopher M. Hughes, M.D. Joins Family Hospice and Palliative Care as Full Time Team Member**

PITTSBURGH – September 19, 2013 – Family Hospice and Palliative Care has announced the appointment of Christopher M. Hughes, M.D. as a full-time team physician, effective September 10, 2013. Dr. Hughes has earned board certification (American Board of Medical Specialties) in Hospice and Palliative Medicine, Internal Medicine, and Critical Care Medicine. At Family Hospice, Dr. Hughes joins an organization where more than half of the palliative care certified physicians in Western Pennsylvania are on staff caring for patients.

Dr. Hughes comes from a background of Critical Care Medicine and is a strong advocate for better end-of-life care. He is a past Trustee of the Pennsylvania Medical Society, where he helped write Pennsylvania's Advance Directive Law and advocated for the POLST (Physicians Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment) initiative.

In his role with Family Hospice, Dr. Hughes makes home visits to patients in the South Hills portion of Family Hospice's nine-county service area.

Dr. Hughes has long been involved in regional advocacy in better end-of-life care, including the Coalition for Quality in End of life Care (CQEL), and has written and lectured on the topic. Dr. Hughes has also completed a Graduate Certificate program in Health Care Policy through Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia, where he is now an adjunct faculty member.

"Family Hospice is delighted to add Christopher Hughes to our team of physicians," said Barbara Ivanko, President and CEO of Family Hospice and Palliative Care. "His reputation in end-of-life care and advocacy is stellar, and his expertise will play an important role in our mission of delivering quality, compassionate care."

Dr. Hughes earned his undergraduate degree from Youngstown State University and his medical degree from Northeast Ohio Medical University. In addition, he conducted a critical care medicine fellowship at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center.

#### **About Family Hospice:**

A winner of the American Hospital Association's *Circle of Life* award for innovative care programming, Family Hospice and Palliative Care has been providing compassionate care to our area since 1980. As Pennsylvania's largest hospice provider, Family Hospice serves nine counties in Western Pennsylvania, helping patients make choices about their care, supporting family and friends who are grieving and educating both professionals and the community about end-of-life issues.

Family Hospice is an independent, non-profit, community-based organization accredited by The Joint Commission for meeting specific high-level performance standards and recognized nationally as a pioneer in programs such as Caregiver Training. Through a commitment to quality services, Family Hospice provides a complete continuum of care to patients and families. More information at [www.FamilyHospice.com](http://www.FamilyHospice.com) and [www.Facebook.com/FamilyHospicePA](http://www.Facebook.com/FamilyHospicePA).