

# The Roundtable

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**May 4, 2017**

## **New hope for New Hope**

**N**urses receive unusual requests. But this one was new to Christii Maquillan. She was tending to a patient at New Hope Hospice who had reached end-of-life preparations. He had no family, never married, and lived alone. His request: “will you lie down next to me?”

Rule books, regulations, ethics- they all flashed through her mind as she decided to take pity and fulfill the man’s request. As she lay there, she felt him shaking, but could not determine whether he was weeping or laughing.

Laughter is the best medicine, as we all know. It turns out that the patient had a \$10 bet riding on whether Ms. Maquillan would fulfill his request.



The big news in her talk was the merger of Eddington-based New Hope Hospice, of which she is Executive Director/Registered Nurse, with Community Health and Counseling Services at the end of May.

Ms. Maquillan defined hospice care, its value to those who use its services, and funding guidelines established by Medicare. She urged everyone to have an end-of-life plan so there are

no doubts or questions when we are no longer able to care for ourselves.

“Hospice is about living,” she said. “People start doing better after they enter hospice. There is no pressure to stay in hospice,” she said. If a patient gets better –and New Hope Hospice carefully monitors patients’ status – Medicare will stop funding when that happens or after six months and patients can resume regular Medicare benefits. They can return to hospice at any time. New Hope Hospice serves an area of up to thirty miles around Eddington. Under the CHCS umbrella, it will expand to a four-county area.

Volunteers are welcome, but getting volunteers is hard, she said. Volunteers go through a 24-hour training session, and they are not involved with direct personal patient care. After the CHCS merger, volunteers will come under the Eastern Maine Medical Center Volunteer Pool.





Coburn Hall, University of Maine, 8:30 am, May 4, 2017

*Service above self*

