**PIII-39: The Experience of Being Discharged Alive from Hospice as Perceived by Older Adults**

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**Abstract:**

**Introduction:** Approximately 1.4 million patients received hospice care in 2007, 85% of whom were 65 and older. The same year, 222,000 patients were discharged alive from hospice (NHPCO, 2008). To date, little research has focused on the experiences of these particular individuals. The purpose of this study is to describe the experience of older adults with a life-threatening condition who have been discharged alive from a hospice program. Research questions to address this purpose are: a) how do patients discharged alive from hospice perceive and describe their experience and b) how do patients discharged alive from hospice perceive and describe their quality of life after hospice discharge?

**Method(s):** A transcendental phenomenological design, based on Husserlian philosophy, guides this study (Moustakas, 1994). Using a purposive sampling design, 15 older adults, 65 years of age and older, who have experienced a live hospice discharge, will be recruited from hospice agencies located in southeast Texas. Participants are interviewed at a time and place convenient for them. Questions posed are, “What was it like for you to be discharged from hospice? Tell me about your quality of life since discharge.” All interviews are audio-recorded and transcribed verbatim. Interview narratives are analyzed using Moustakas’ methodology and interpretations will include a critical lens. Rigor to ensure trustworthiness will follow the criteria proposed by Lincoln and Guba (1985).

**Results:** Preliminary thematic findings include “being excluded” and “laughing it off.”
Discussion & Conclusions: The understanding and meaning of this experience will create new possibilities for palliative and hospice care as well as possible review of current Medicare policy, guidelines, and procedures limiting hospice care to a temporal state.

Abstract History:

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No, I (or a member of my immediate family) have not received something of value* from or own stock (or stock options) in a commercial company or institution related directly or indirectly to the subject of my presentation.

FDA Disclosure:
I will not be describing any pharmaceutical and/or medical device.

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