



D23 Elder Injury at the End of Life

Patricia M. Speck, MSN, 1740 Overton Park, Memphis, TN 38112; and Diana Faugno, BSN, CPN, 1351 Heritage Court, Escondido, CA 92027*

Attendees will learn basic information about hospice care and nonintentional injuries and the healing patterns that occur with routine care in the frail elderly as demonstrated through a case study.

This presentation will impact the forensic community and/or humanity by providing better diagnostic skills of health care providers; assisting in the recognition that not all injury is intentional and that there are influences that can be revealed in the home setting; and providing care givers with stresses that will need local support services, such as Hospice programs.

The population of elderly is growing and will peak with the baby boomers in 2025. A significant number of these elders will remain in their homes with elder child caregivers. Some will have intentional injury and the research points to the issues with the caregiver. This case study however focuses on the frail senior elderly who are enrolled in hospice, expected to expire within six months, and are cared for by elder children. The hospice criteria for enrollment will be discussed as well as chronicled unintentional injury and the mechanism of injury. In this case study, the health care and ancillary care providers will be exposed to the unintentional injury potential in the frail elder, wound identification, information gathering assessment in a non-threatening, open environment, intervention that addresses the caregiver's needs, and safety support services necessary to maintain the comfort of the patient at the end of life.

Elder Abuse, Unintentional Injury, Intentional Injury