

# HOSPICE PATIENT AND FAMILY EDUCATION AND TRAINING

## MANAGING ANXIETY

### What is Anxiety?

• A feeling or deep sense that things are not right

# What are symptoms of Anxiety?

- Fear
- Worrying
- Sleeplessness
- Confusion
- Rapid breathing
- Tension
- Shaking
- Inability to relax or get comfortable
- Sweating
- Problems paying attention or concentrating

## What to report to the Hospice and Palliative Care Team?

- Feelings that may be causing the anxiety (for example: fear of dying or worrying about money)
- Concerns about the illness
- Problems with relationships with family or friends
- Spiritual concerns
- Signs and symptoms that the anxiety is getting worse

### What can be done?

The team will try to find the cause for the anxiety and discuss treatments with you and your primary care provider. Things you can do:

- Do things that have helped the anxiety in the past
- Write down your thoughts and feelings
- Treat physical problems such as pain that can cause anxiety
- Do relaxing activities
- Keep things calm
- Limit visitors
- Play soothing music
- Massage arm, back, hand or feet
- Give ordered medications the team will discuss the medication with you