

Gilchrist and MedStar Health Partner to Provide Inpatient Hospice in Select Hospitals

HUNT VALLEY, Md., April 20, 2021

Gilchrist, Maryland's largest provider of serious illness and end-of-life care, has partnered with MedStar Health to provide inpatient hospice care to patients in MedStar Union Memorial and MedStar Good Samaritan Hospitals. The mobile hospice response service offers timely and seamless access to hospice services for hospitalized patients and their families. This program provides vital end-of-life services that would otherwise not be available to patients who are too fragile to transfer to an inpatient hospice center.

Gilchrist clinicians are stationed within the hospitals, allowing for efficient collaboration with the MedStar team once a physician refers the patient to hospice. A Gilchrist hospice nurse and physician visit the patient at the hospital daily and provide 24/7 support and management to control symptoms and provide comfort care. A nurse is available to support families at the time of death. Families receive all the benefits of hospice care, including emotional support and bereavement services after a death. If a hospitalized patient is stable enough to be transferred, Gilchrist will continue providing hospice services to the patient in their home or in one of Gilchrist's three inpatient hospice centers.

"Our partnership fills a critical need for hospitalized patients at the end of life, allowing them to receive expert care that best matches their needs as their care goals change from curative to comfort," said Catherine Hamel, President of Gilchrist. "Gilchrist and MedStar Health are committed to providing patients the right care at the right time, throughout every stage of serious illness."

The new mobile hospice response service was rolled out in MedStar Union Memorial in November 2020 and MedStar Good Samaritan in December.

ABOUT GILCHRIST

Gilchrist is a nationally recognized nonprofit leader in serious illness and end-of-life care. With elder medical care, counseling and hospice, we help people at every stage of serious illness live life to the fullest and make informed choices about their care. Since 1994, the organization has served thousands of individuals throughout Central Maryland—in homes, in skilled nursing and residential care communities, and at our three inpatient hospice centers in Towson, Howard County and Baltimore. Gilchrist is accredited by CHAP (Community Health Accreditation Partner), is a recipient of the Circle of Life award from the American Hospital Association, and is part of GBMC HealthCare, which received the prestigious Malcolm Baldrige Quality Award in 2020. For more information about Gilchrist, visit www.gilchristcares.org.

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