



Doris Neibart
President
One Veterans Drive
Paramus, New Jersey 07652

February 2, 2006

Dear State Veterans Home Administrator:

Our National Association of State Veterans Homes, in collaboration with the office of Geriatrics and Extended Care (GEC) in Department of Veterans Affairs, is conducting a national survey to characterize current and emerging hospice and palliative care services in State Veterans Homes. Your participation is vital to the success of this endeavor!

PLEASE NOTE: All information will be reported in the aggregate. The identity of the individual respondents and their institutions will remain confidential.

The on-line survey is located at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?u=538141710310>. It will take you or your designee only a few minutes to complete, but the information it provides will guide our efforts to enhance communication among providers and ensure that our nation's veterans have access to excellent end-of-life care in all settings. **PLEASE COMPLETE THE SURVEY BY FEBRUARY 17, 2006.**

The benefits of returning a completed survey are numerous. Most importantly, the information you provide will contribute to a national database of information about the state of palliative care and hospice services in State Veterans Homes. In addition, all respondents will receive an Executive Summary with aggregated results, allowing for local benchmarking and assessment of current programs. Key elements of successful programs will be included in the summary, which can contribute to development of new or enhancement of existing palliative care and hospice programs.

Hospice and Palliative care is a team-oriented approach to expert medical care, pain management, and emotional and spiritual support expressly tailored to the patient's needs and wishes. Support is provided to the patient's loved ones as well. The goal of hospice and palliative care is to achieve the best possible quality of life through relief of suffering, control of symptoms, and restoration of functional capacity while remaining sensitive to personal, cultural, and religious values, beliefs and practices.

Thank you for your participation and your support! Together we can care for our veterans at their time of greatest need.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Doris Neibart".

Doris Neibart
President
National Association of State Veterans Homes