

## **HOSPICE MANUAL**

Hospice care is appropriate for persons with dementia and allows these patients to die with comfort and dignity. End of life care is important to both the patient and the family caregiver. Most caregivers are exhausted at the time of the patient's demise and many suffer from psychiatric problems as well. This manual includes comprehensive information about end of life care for persons with dementia including appropriate use of PEG tubes, pain management and a listing of medications that can produce significant complications in persons with dementia. We recommend that all hospice workers utilize the textbook "Geriatric Dosage Handbook" in the management of the dying Alzheimer patient. Our DETA brain teaching booklet, "Crossing the River of Life with Alzheimer's" speaks to disease progression and demonstrates advanced damage to the brain in understandable language for family caregivers. These visual aids assist the family in understanding the terminal nature of the brain damage. Tape #8 in the DETA Brain Series specifically speaks to end-of-life care for persons with dementia. Additional materials can be obtained by logging onto the DETA website [www.alzbrain.org](http://www.alzbrain.org).