

Meet Our Speakers

**Stephen Leedy, MD** is a board-certified Hospice and Palliative Medicine physician with over 20 years of experience. He is a Fellow of the American Academy of Hospice & Palliative Medicine and served as chairman of their Public Policy committee. He is the former president and CEO of Bristol Hospice, a national hospice provider. In 2016, he founded Upstreaming, a consulting firm dedicated to providing eligibility assurance and audit defense to hospice organizations. He serves as a hospice expert witness in Medicare ALJ hearings and writes letters of eligibility defense for hospices under audit. He is also the Chief Medical Officer of Gulfside Hospice in Florida, and continues to actively participate in IDG meetings as hospice medical director for several other hospice programs in Florida.

**Courtney Hickey** is the Quality Improvement Manager for Post-Acute Care Certifications at the American Heart Association. In this role, Courtney develops strategic partnerships with post-acute care organizations providing consultation throughout the certification process while also collaborating with our partners in the hospital and non-hospital care settings to develop an optimal heart failure system of care. Before joining the AHA, Courtney had an 8-year career at the American Cancer Society, where she developed strategic partnerships with healthcare systems by providing QI coaching & guidance on the implementation of evidence-based interventions, aimed at increasing cancer screening rates. Courtney has also served as a Home Health & Hospice Liaison working closely with post-acute care facilities, developing collaborative action plans to increase admissions while delivering quality care to patients.

**Rory Farrand, MS, MA, MSN, APRN-BC** serves as the Vice President of Palliative and Advanced Care for NHPCO and is a seasoned healthcare executive who brings more than 20 years of proven health care successes in focus areas including palliative care, geriatric primary and acute care, geriatric psychiatry, assisted living management, Alzheimer’s/dementia care, clinical health care management and operations, clinical research, innovative program development, nursing, and training.

Prior to NHPCO, Ms. Farrand supported the palliative care initiatives of VITAS Healthcare, as the National Director of VITAS Palliative Care. In that role, she worked to improve and expand palliative care for VITAS patients, families, and health care providers. Her key objectives included development of VITAS’ community-based palliative care initiatives (including a bespoke digital application to support clinician billing and to determine clinical risk), education and training to raise clinicians’ expertise related to goals-of-care conversations, as well as serving as an industry advocate for legislative and regulatory action toward community-based palliative care delivery models.

By background and training, Ms. Farrand is a board-certified adult nurse practitioner with an MSN focused on geriatric and adult health. Additionally, she holds an advanced practice certificate in palliative care, a BA in Psychology, an MS in Behavioral Neuroscience, and an MA in Art Therapy. She has worked as both a Nurse Practitioner and an Art Therapist. She is active in multiple professional organizations, including HPNA (Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association) and the Gerontological Advanced Practice Nurses Association. Rory enjoys baking, yoga, reading, and spending time with her sons.

**Eric Carpenter** is currently an Associate Director for the Home Health, Hospice, DME, and Specialty Pharmacy Accreditation in the Home Care Program at The Joint Commission. In this role, he educates potential organizations about Joint Commission accreditation, assists new home care organizations in entering a contractual relationship with The Joint Commission, and provides education to organizations, state associations, and others regarding the home care program survey process. Mr. Carpenter has been in the health care industry for more than 20 years. During this time, he worked in Pharma, Medical Sales, as a Wound Care Specialist and in DME. Mr. Carpenter earned a Bachelor of Arts in Finance from Marshall University in Huntington, WV.

**Pooja Joshi, PharmD, BCPS** is a Clinical Manager at Enclara Pharmacia. Pooja is responsible to collaborate with clients to establish clinical program goals, focus on key financial and utilization metrics, clinical data, medication initiatives, and provider and nurse education.  She has 20 years of experience as a pharmacist in various fields including 10 years of experience as a clinical pharmacist and clinical pharmacy manager in the hospital setting. Throughout Pooja’s career, she has been continuously involved in the education and training of healthcare professionals and students.  Pooja earned her Doctor of Pharmacy degree at the University of Illinois Chicago College of Pharmacy. She completed a 1-year post-graduate pharmacy practice residency program and maintains certification as a Board Certified Pharmacotherapy Specialist (BCPS).

**Don Hundt, DC, BS** holds decades of experience consulting with clinical business owners and clinicians. Dr. Don has 20 plus years of clinic ownership, hiring, evaluating new technology and training teams. He lives in Sussex and plays music shows as "Lil Donny Hundy Show" and can be found on LinkedIn at https://www.linkedin.com/in/dr-don-hundt/.