June 18, 2019

Dr. Jessick

Doctor,

My wife and I want to thank you for the lovely care you gave to my Father-in-Law and my wife’s dad, as well as to the family members, recently.

I don’t know if you remember our specific case, but you, in the wonderful way that you have, brought my wife and her two sisters together in their very difficult decision to bring Dad home for home hospice care. You were so patient and generous with your time that all three daughters felt that they were listened to and respected as they together made one of the most difficult decisions any of them will have to make. Your skill at guiding a discussion and ultimate decision insured that all three daughters are comfortable with that decision they made and with each other.

I am sure that you’ve seen some instances where family members, holding different values and expectations for the care and disposition of their loved ones, will disagree and will even cause large rifts in the family fabric. The skill, patience and gentle style that you have to our family in our time of sorrow and hard decisions is, I feel, largely responsible for our not suffering any rifts. We all agree that we set out the right path for Dad.

You might not hear of what happens to your patients once they go into hospice, but I’ll let you know that Dad died 25 or so hours after he arrived at home, He never had any time of real mental clarity, but he did smile at all of the many family members as they came to comfort him. He did have a period of violent tremors and seeming frightening nightmares. And then he had a period of several hours of peaceful sleep before he breathed his last breath. He had received the last rights and was surrounded by his family that was weeping from love for him.

I just want you to know that I feel that we owe you a giant debt of gratitude for helping us all get to that place where Dad’s end was beautiful for being in his home with his family.

We thank you.