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### **Providence Hospice & Palliative Care names three new leaders**

Renton, WA (Nov. 18, 2011): [Providence Hospice & Palliative Care](#) has named three new leaders to grow its services and expand its commitment to helping patients benefit from hospice care. This includes educating the community about palliative and end-of-life care options to empower choice, supporting families through the bereavement process, and increasing earlier access to hospice services.

Peg Rutchik, formerly executive director of [Providence Hospice of Seattle](#), has been promoted to Vice President of Hospice Services.

Kathie Belsky, formerly branch director of Gentiva Health Services in Kent, Wash., has been named Director of Providence Hospice of Seattle.

Lori Hermansen, formerly senior clinical manager of Providence Hospice of Seattle, has been promoted to Director of [Providence Hospice & Home Care of Snohomish County](#).

“We are excited to name these new leaders as we continue to grow our services and change the way people die in our community through increased access to palliative care,” said Robert Hellrigel, Chief Executive Officer of [Providence Senior and Community Services](#). “We are strengthening our leadership team by promoting our talented employees from within who have worked for many years to help Providence grow and we’re bringing in outside talent to continue to enhance our talent pool.”

Rutchik has more than 24 years’ experience with [Providence Health & Services](#). She was promoted to executive director of Providence Hospice of Seattle in 2009 after serving as co-interim executive director. She led the ministry through a significant operational turnaround, which increased the ministry’s capacity to serve the community by more than 25 percent from the summer of 2009 to today. As the largest and oldest hospice in the Pacific Northwest, Providence Hospice of Seattle serves about 600 adults and children each day through its hospice and palliative care programs, as well as 2,900 people through its grief and bereavement services. Rutchik earned her Master’s Degree in Nursing from the University of Washington and has served as patient care services manager and clinical director at Providence Hospice of Seattle.

Belsky earned her nursing degree in 1988 and has worked as a nurse or nursing manager for 23 years. She has worked in hospice care for 18 years for Baystate Visiting Nurse and Hospice Association, VNA & Hospice of Cooley Dickinson, Spectrum Home Health and Hospice Care all in Massachusetts, and Gentiva Health Services in Kent. In her new role she will oversee all operations of Providence Hospice of Seattle.

Hermansen has worked for Providence for 13 years, first as a home health manager in the 1990s and most recently as a manager with Providence Hospice of Seattle. She has worked as a nurse for 28 years and has worked in home care for 20 years. In her new role she will oversee all operations of Providence Hospice and Home Care of Snohomish County, which supports about 300 hospice patients and nearly 900 patients in its [Partners in Palliative Care Program](#), a collaborative effort with [The Everett Clinic](#) and [Providence Physician Group](#).

**About Providence Hospice & Palliative Care:** Providence Hospice & Palliative Care provides care to patients with advanced illness and their families throughout Western Washington through three agencies – Providence Hospice of Seattle, Providence Hospice and Home Care of Snohomish County, and Providence SoundHomeCare and Hospice. For more information about services and locations, please visit [www.ProvidenceHospiceWashington.org](http://www.ProvidenceHospiceWashington.org).

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