

Books on Long Term Care

Changing the way we die: Compassionate end-of-life care and the hospice movement:
by *Fran Smith and Sheila Himmel*

The book details the start of the hospice movement in England, the introduction of the concept to the United States, acceptance by Medicare and health insurance industry, and the commercialization. Good and bad experiences of actual patients and families are described.

Being Mortal: by *Atul Gawande*

The author is a surgeon of Indian origin. Gawande describes the type of care that seniors get at most institutions like Skilled Nursing Facilities. Though many caregivers are kind and hardworking, the system does not permit enough attention to the wishes and goals of the seniors at life-end. He cites specific examples including the last years of his grandfather, his father and his wife's grandmother. He describes some of the movements to improve the situation and also describes the service provided by Hospice.

Knocking on Heavens Door: the path to a better way of death: by *Katy Butler*

Butler, a reporter, chronicles the slow demise of her father over six years. She details the suffering of her mother who insisted on taking care of him and the pressure on herself living on the opposite coast of the USA and trying to help her mother. She questions the objective of modern medical technology to sustain life causing prolonged suffering for the dying and the caretakers.