



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**1/8/20**

### **High Peaks Hospice Nurses Earn CHPN Certification**

January 8, 2020 (Glens Falls, NY) – High Peaks Hospice is pleased to announce that our Head of Nursing, Phil Pekar, RN, and our Clinical Lead, Mel Duerr, RN, NP, have both earned their Certified Hospice and Palliative Care Nursing certification. By earning this certification, they have proven competence and increased their knowledge across the spectrum of hospice and palliative care.

This certification is a recognized quality marker by patients, physicians, providers, quality organizations, insurers, credentialers, and the federal government in an atmosphere of increasing awareness regarding quality in health care and appropriate utilization of services.



Phil Pekar, RN, has worked for High Peaks hospice since August 2010. Prior to that, his nursing career was spent on the medical/surgical floor at Saratoga Hospital and with visiting Nurses in Albany as a case manager. He has always been involved in the health field as an EMT - he was part of the Medical Emergency Response Team at International Paper and was also involved in Corinth EMS



Mel Duerr, RN, NP, has been with High Peaks Hospice since June 2019. Before she started at High Peaks, she was Owner and Partner at Fazzi Associates for 12 years where she ran the international coding system for hospice and home care. Mel has been in the post-acute services of palliative care and hospice for 32 years.

From Executive Director Nick George, "We are proud of these two nurses and honored to have them recognized for their work in hospice. As Certified Hospice and Palliative Care Nurses (CHPN), Phil and Mel have demonstrated their strength, compassion, and support of the patients and loved ones who have trusted their end of life story to High Peaks Hospice."

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### **About High Peaks Hospice**

*High Peaks Hospice provides end of life care that listens with respect, cares with compassion, supports with choice and comforts with understanding wherever you call home.*

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