

Contact: Sheila Caron
scaron@sjnh.org

September 9, 2016
(603) 882.3000 ext. 63208

Film Explores End-of-Life Care
Free Screening of 'Being Mortal' on Tuesday, September 20

Nashua, NH – In partnership with St. Joseph Hospital, Home Health & Hospice Care and Rivier University a free community screening of the documentary "Being Mortal" will be held on Tuesday, September 20 at 6:30 p.m. at Rivier University, Dion Center. After the screening, audience members can participate in a guided conversation on how to take concrete steps to identify and communicate wishes about end-of-life goals and preferences.

Panelists include: Donald McDonah, MD, Medical Director of Palliative Care Services at St. Joseph Hospital; Anica Naprta, MD, Medical Director for Home Health & Hospice Care; Lynne Randall, MSW, LICSW, Social Work and Spiritual Care Manager for Home Health & Hospice Care; and James Beauregard, PhD from Rivier University.

"Being Mortal" delves into the hopes of patients and families facing terminal illness. The film investigates the practice of caring for the dying and explores the relationships between patients and their doctors. It follows a surgeon, Dr. Atul Gawande, as he shares stories from the people and families he encounters. When Dr. Gawande's own father gets cancer, his search for answers about how best to care for the dying becomes a personal quest. The film sheds light on how a medical system focused on a cure often leaves out the sensitive conversations that need to happen so a patient's true wishes can be known and honored at the end.

"Being Mortal" underscores the importance of people planning ahead and talking with family members about end-of-life decisions.

Seventy percent of Americans say they would prefer to die at home, but nearly 70 percent die in hospitals and institutions. Ninety percent of Americans know they should have conversations about end-of-life care, yet only 30 percent have done so.

In February 2015, "Being Mortal" aired nationally on the PBS program "Frontline." For more information about the film, visit <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/being-mortal/>. The film is adapted from Dr. Gawande's 2014 nationally best selling book of the same name. More information about the book is at <http://atulgawande.com/book/being-mortal/>.

The free screening is made possible by a grant from The John and Wauna Harman Foundation in partnership with the Hospice Foundation of America.

For more information about the free screening, contact Kristen Fox, APRN at (603) 882.3000. No registration is required for this event.

About St. Joseph Hospital

St. Joseph Hospital, a member of Covenant Health, is a regional, full-service healthcare system dedicated to providing innovative, high quality healthcare. The main campus, St. Joseph Hospital, is a 208-bed facility combining the latest technologies and personalized medicine with conveniences such as around-the-clock emergency services, comprehensive, specialized treatment and preventive services at the Cardiovascular & Diabetes Center, Breast Care Center, and Cancer Center, DNV GL-accredited stroke program at our hospital and Rehabilitation Center, and labor and delivery services at the Childbirth Center. We offer an extensive physician network of specialists and primary care providers. Affiliates include St. Joseph School of Nursing.

About Home Health & Hospice Care

Home Health & Hospice Care has been your neighborhood provider for home care and hospice services for over 130 years. Serving 25 communities in southern NH, we provide traditional home care, including nursing, rehabilitation therapies, medical social work, and licensed nursing assistants. Our hospice team cares for dying patients in the home, in nursing facilities and in the Community Hospice House, which is owned and operated by Home Health & Hospice Care. We pride ourselves on having superior outcomes, cutting-edge technology and being leaders in disease management. For compassionate, experienced, skilled care, families and physicians rely on Home Health & Hospice Care, one of the region's most experienced visiting nurse associations.

#