

# Hospice announces new medical director

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Dr. Niharika Suchak has been named Big Bend Hospice's new medical director.

Suchak has served as the hospice's associate medical director since February 2016.

As the hospice's medical director, Suchak will be responsible for supervising hospice physicians who create a comprehensive medical care plan for each patient and ensures that every member of the hospice team, caregivers, and the patient's family, are knowledgeable of the care plan.

"Our hospice physicians spend a surprising amount of time talking with families and explaining what's happening with the patient. Ensuring this is done with compassion while also following state and federal regulations is an important role of our medical director," Big Bend Hospice CEO Bill Wertman said. "I am confident that Dr. Suchak has the knowledge and experience to lead this team."

Suchak is a clinician-educator and an associate professor in the Department of Geriatrics at Florida State University College of Medicine in Tallahassee. She is the Director of Year 1 Clinical Skills at FSUCOM, Medical Director of FSU TeleHealthTM, and Chair of the FSUCOM Telehealth Committee. Suchak is board certified through the American Board of Internal Medicine in Internal Medicine, Geriatric Medicine, and Hospice and Palliative Medicine. She has extensive clinical and leadership experience in a multitude of healthcare environments.

Suchak completed her medical school training at the Armed Forces Medical College in Pune, India. She completed her internal medicine residency training at The Union Memorial Hospital (UMH), Baltimore, and furthered her training by completing a fellowship in Geriatric Medicine also at UMH.

