

Valor Hospice News



Hospice Care Saves Money For Medicare, Study Shows

Findings of a major new study of hospice care in America show that hospice services save money for Medicare and bring quality care to patients with life-limiting illness and their families. This provides useful evidence to support the many benefits of hospice, reports the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization.

Researchers found that hospice reduced Medicare costs by an average of **\$2,309 per hospice patient**. The new study from Duke University appears in the October 2007 issue of the professional journal "Social Science & Medicine."

Additionally, Medicare costs would be reduced for seven out of 10 hospice recipients if hospice has been used for a longer period of time the study found.

"Given that hospice has been widely demonstrated to improve quality of life of patients and families...the Medicare program appears to have a rare situation whereby something that improves quality of life also appears to reduce costs," writes lead author Don H. Taylor, Jr., assistant professor of public policy at Duke's Sanford Institute of Public Policy.

The National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization reports that 1.3 million patients received care from one of the nation's 4,500 hospice providers in 2006. This represents a steady increase of more than 100,000 patients than the previous year. Approximately 35 percent of all deaths in the US were under the care of a hospice program.

The study was funded by the Health Care Financing Organization (HCFO) of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

General Guidelines for Hospice Care

- The person has a life limiting prognosis with six months or less to live
- The patient requires frequent visits to the Physician's office or emergency room
- The patient is becoming weaker and requires more assistance with activities of daily living
- A significant decline in the patient's physical or mental health state
- The patient's disease is progressing at a rapid rate or new diagnosis are added
- The patient has lost unintentional weight
- The patient's level of mobility has declined and requires more assistance with daily living
- The patient has recently chosen to stop aggressive treatment options

About Us

Valor HospiceCare & PalliativeCare provides compassionate, holistic care for patients with advanced chronic and terminal illness and support for their families and loved ones.

With a focus on exemplary service and a dedication to making the most of every day, join us as we commit to improving end-of-life care and expanding access to hospice and palliative care in the markets we serve. Valor is State Licensed, Medicare, TRICARE, VA and AHCCCS Certified and affiliates with most commercial insurance plans. The teams currently serve Pima, southern Pinal, Santa Cruz and Cochise Counties, with offices in Tucson, Green Valley and Sierra Vista, Arizona. For further information, please contact us in Tucson at 520.615.3996, in Green Valley at 520.399.0200, in Sierra Vista at 520.458.9450 or toll-free at 877.615.3996.

Valor Hospice News is produced to provide the healthcare community and general public with industry information about hospice and palliative care programs and services.

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Valor Sierra Vista Office for Cochise County, AZ Opens

As part of Valor's rural health initiative, a new office has opened in Sierra Vista to serve patients and families in the communities of Sierra Vista, Benson, Tombstone and Bisbee. This is Valor's third office in southern Arizona. Under the leadership of Diana Royer, RN, CHPN, PatientCare Services Director, all staff members have been hired as part of the initial licensure process. Full certification is expected by January 2008. The new office is located at 500 E. Fry Blvd., Suite L-11 in Haymore Plaza. For further information please contact 520.458.9450.

Key Appointments

Diana Royer, RN, CHPN has joined Valor as PatientCare Services Director for our Sierra Vista Office. Diana brings considerable clinical leadership and rural office experience to our team. She is responsible for overseeing all daily operations for the Sierra Vista office, including our Cochise County, AZ service areas for Sierra Vista, Benson, Bisbee and Tombstone. Diana started as an LPN and received her AA degree in Nursing, having worked in home health, parish and hospice nurse and manager capacities. She is a Board Certified Hospice and Palliative Nurse. Valor welcomes Diana's passion for hospice care in our new service area.