

Valor Hospice News

Current News from Valor HospiceCare & The Valor Institute for Palliative Medicine



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Health Care Reform and Hospice Findings

As health care costs remain a complex issue, according to the Congressional Budget Office, rising health care costs and their consequences for federal health insurance programs constitute one of the nation's largest central fiscal challenges.

But there's heartening news in one area of medicine: hospice care. Findings in a major study by Duke University confirmed that hospice services save money. It concluded that along with the comprehensive approach of hospice care, it reduces costs to Medicare by approximately \$2,300 per person.

Increasing hospice services by even three days during the course of care can increase savings by nearly 10 percent. But more importantly to patients and families, hospice care allows individuals to live their lives to the fullest, without pain and without fear.

It has been said that at the end of our lives, we want to remain in our own homes. But the reality is that over 50 percent to 75 percent of all deaths occur in a hospital—not on hospice care.

However, among patients in hospice care, over 95 percent remain in their homes. Recent studies have shown that patients on hospice care live longer and have better lives.

Valor HospiceCare has grown to become the leader of relief of suffering with hospice services in southern Arizona. It is our belief that no one should live in pain, no one should live in fear and no one should die feeling alone.

Valor Community Outreach TV Campaign Begins

Valor HospiceCare is committed to educating health care professionals and the general public about the hospice benefit. With 10,000 new people entering into Medicare every day in the United States, providing the facts about comprehensive hospice services is as important as addressing the many misconceptions that exist with hospice care benefits.

Beginning in November, television outreach advertisements began on KOLD Channel 13 at various times of the day. The first spot, titled "Hospice Care in the Home" has generated considerable interest. Follow up messages focus on the areas of family testimonials, physician and health care professional education and facts about the benefits and Valor's unique services. In addition to our website, additional information and the videos are available at www.kold.com, in the Health Connections section.

Associate Announcements

Herbert Jalowsky, MD, MBA, has been appointed Medical Director of our Tucson Metro agency. Dr. Jalowsky is Board Certified by the American Academy of Family Physicians and Geriatrics with his practice focused on geriatric medicine. A graduate of University of Arizona's College of Medicine, Dr. Jalowsky completed his residency at Truman Medical Center East in Kansas City.

Joyce Bowdish, BSN, MSN, GNP, has joined our Sierra Vista team as a Nurse Practitioner. Joyce brings extensive experience in geriatric patient care, working in a clinical practice, the VA healthcare system and as an academic lecturer.

Jennifer Trainor, BSN, MSN, ACNP, now supports our Tucson Metro and Green Valley offices as a Nurse Practitioner. Jennifer provides trauma nursing at a local university hospital and will also provide home care.

Little Things That Score Big

Hospice made a big win this year. Modern Healthcare announced that hospice had taken its Big Impact Tournament crown. The Big Impact Tournament revealed the person, event, innovation or organization that readers felt had made the biggest impact in 35 years.

Hospice stole the show by nearly a 3-to-1 margin, defeating the Institute for Healthcare Improvement in the final round. It upset a number of favorites in the innovations bracket, including electronic health records, new models of integrated delivery systems, and clinical and financial performance. For further information, please visit www.modernhealthcare.com.

Valor HospiceCare & The Valor Institute for Palliative Medicine provides compassionate, medically-directed holistic care for patients with advanced chronic and terminal illness and support for their families and loved ones. As an academic-based organization, 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 home care, reducing costs to our healthcare system and expanding access to hospice and palliative care in the communities we serve. Valor is State Licensed, Medicare & Medicaid/AHCCCS Certified, CHAP Accredited (Sierra Vista) and affiliates with Tricare, VA and most commercial insurance plans. As the largest hospice network in southern Arizona, serving over 25 communities, our teams currently support Pima, Pinal, Santa Cruz & Cochise Counties.

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Valor Hospice News is produced to provide the healthcare community and general public with industry information about hospice and palliative care programs and services. Questions or comments? Please e-mail us at info@valorhospicecare.com or call 877.615.3996. Valor Hospice News is published periodically by Valor HospiceCare, LLC. All rights reserved.