

Valor Hospice News

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



Early Palliative Care Improved Quality of Life in Patients with Newly Diagnosed Metastatic NSCLC

This ground-breaking, randomized, controlled trial concluded that patients with newly diagnosed, metastatic non-small-cell lung cancer, had improved quality of life from early palliative care. The study showed that at 12 weeks, early palliative care improved quality of life and reduced depression more than standard care alone. Early palliative care improved survival more than standard care and among patients who died, early palliative care reduced use of aggressive end-of-life care in the hospital.

In palliative care, as with hospice, emphasis is placed on pain and symptom management, communication to ensure that treatment plans match patient goals, and psychological and spiritual issues. The focus is on both patients and caregivers and coordination of care. For a copy of the outcomes, please contact us.

(Temel JS, Greer JA, Muzikansky A, et al. N. Engl J Med. 2010; 363:733-42)

Sierra Vista Office Moves to New Administrative Offices

Effective January, 2011, our Sierra Vista team has moved into new administrative offices. Providing care in Cochise County, the new address is 2039 E. Wilcox, Suite B, Sierra Vista, Arizona, 85635. All phone and fax contact information remain the same.

Opportunities to Improved the Quality of Care for Advanced Illness; Selecting Hospice Care

Many studies describe a sizable chasm between the care Americans consider optimal for advanced illnesses and what is actually experienced. Aggressive or curative measures may be pursued to the exclusion of comfort, pain relief, and psychosocial support. In a recent study, new care management programs are now giving people culturally sensitive supportive information, to make informed choices and obtain hospice and palliative services in a timely manner.

In the sample population, more people chose hospice care and acute care utilization declined. It is possible to assist Americans with advanced- or terminal-illness and remove barriers to selecting hospice care without adverse financial impact. For a copy of the program study, please contact us.

(Health Aff (Millwood). 2009;28(5):1357-59:10.1377/hlthaff.28.5.1357)

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Staff Announcements

Chris Rodinis, RN, CHPN has been appointed Program Director & Administrator of our Phoenix Metro office. Her leadership position oversees clinical, operations and marketing of the agency. Chris has 23 years experience in nursing with 12 years in hospice. Her hospice career started in Case Management, and developed into management positions of PatientCare Coordinator, Director of Clinical Services, Site Manager and Staff Development Manager with local hospice agencies. Chris and her husband have two daughters.

Valor Phoenix Metro Office Receives Recommendation for Medicare Certification & CHAP Accreditation

On January 21, 2011, the Phoenix Metro office received its recommendation for Certification and Accreditation. Opening in November, 2009, the team began serving patients after receiving the Arizona Department of Health Services License on April, 2010. "The survey process went very well, and we are excited to continue to grow and provide our unique services in the East Valley and other areas of Phoenix," said Chris Rodinis, RN, Program Director & Administrator. The licensure provides for home patient care in Maricopa and Pinal Counties. The initial office is located at 1660 S. Alma School Road, Suite 117 in Mesa. The Phoenix Metro office is the fourth office in the Valor HospiceCare network, now giving service access to over 90% of the population base in central and southern Arizona.

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 & Phoenix Metro) and affiliates with most commercial insurance plans. As the largest hospice network in Arizona, serving over 40 communities, our teams currently support Pima, Pinal, Santa Cruz, Cochise & Maricopa Counties.

Tucson Metro <i>Corporate Administration</i> 520.615.3996	Green Valley <i>Office</i> 520.399.0200	Sierra Vista <i>Office</i> 520.458.9450	Phoenix Metro <i>Corporate Administration</i> 480.821.8338	Casa Grande 520.836.9669	Globe 928.425.0770
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