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Quick Facts & Stats

Hospice Can Bring Quality Care to Patients and Save Money for Medicare

In 2007 Duke University researchers found that hospice care reduced Medicare costs by an average of \$2309 per hospice patient. Further, for 7 of 10 hospice patients, even greater savings could have been realized if hospice had been used for a longer period. The report's authors suggest that "More effort should be put into increasing short stays as opposed to focusing on shortening long ones." The following statistics are based on 2006 data.

1.3 million

Patients received hospice services.¹

59 days

Average length of hospice service.¹

74.1%

Hospice patients died at home or in a residential facility.¹

81.7%

Hospice patients were 65 years of age or older.¹

33.2%

Hospice patients were 85 years of age or older.¹

4500

Hospice programs operated nationwide.¹

83.7%

Of hospice patients were covered by the Medicare Hospice Benefit.¹

4000

Volunteers worked in hospice.¹

29

Days longer is the mean survival of hospice patients compared with that of non-hospice patients.²

References

1. National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization (NHPCO). NHPCO Facts and Figures: Hospice Care in America. NHPCO Web site. www.nhpc.org/files/public/Statistics_Research/NHPCO_facts-and-figures_Nov2007.pdf. November 2007. Accessed April 7, 2008.
2. NHPCO. New research finds patients do live longer under hospice care [press release]. NHPCO Web site. www.nhpc.org/14a/pages/Index.cfm?pageID=5145. March 21, 2007. Accessed April 7, 2008.