
CASE STUDY

Hospice Improves Survival Time by 81 Days in CHF Patients

Investigators found that patients with certain diseases may survive longer on average if they receive hospice care¹. For instance, **congestive heart failure patients lived an average of 321 days without hospice care, and an average of 402 days with hospice care. This is an average increase of 81 days.**

Other diseases included in the study were:

- **LUNG CANCER:** Patients survived an average of 39 days longer with hospice care than without hospice care.
- **PANCREATIC CANCER:** Survival rate increased by an average of 21 days with hospice care.
- **COLON CANCER:** Patients survived an average of 33 days longer when cared for by hospice.

—“NHPCO Facts and Figures: Hospice Care in America,” October 2008

1. “Comparing Hospice and Nonhospice Patient Survival among Patients Who Die within a Three-Month Window,” *Journal of Pain and Symptom Management* March 2007.

Reprinted with permission from Quality of Life Matters[®], copyright 2009.

Published by Quality of Life Publishing Co., Naples, FL.



HOW HOSPICE CAN HELP YOUR PRACTICE

How do we know if a patient is Hospice appropriate?

The National Hospice & Palliative Care Organization has published Guidelines for Prognosis in Non-Cancer Diseases. We use these to help primary care physicians and specialists manage patients with end-stage heart, lung, Alzheimer's, and other non-malignant conditions. For a copy, please call (716) 989-2009.

Can I bill Medicare or commercial insurance for services once my patients are referred to Hospice?

Yes, you can. Primary attending physicians continue to bill Medicare Part B and other carriers for the patient's regular office visits or for all covered services. New billing codes are also available for care plan oversight, so reimbursement can be obtained for telephone calls to nurses, as well as patients.

Do commercial insurance plans have Hospice benefits?

Most third-party payers now have a Hospice benefit, similar to the Hospice Medicare Benefit.

Do you offer a Hospice evaluation service?

Yes. Hospice Buffalo staff are available to meet with you, evaluate, and educate patients and families who you believe are appropriate for Hospice services.

There is no fee for this service. If, during the evaluation, your patient chooses Hospice care and you approve this decision, admission to the program can start right away. Contact Hospice Buffalo Admissions Department at (716) 686-8000.

Answers to Questions Physicians Often Ask About Hospice Care

Most Physicians know that Hospice is designed to help terminally ill patients and their families with relief from pain and other symptoms. But here are answers to questions physicians often ask about Hospice care and how it can help busy physicians and their office staff cope with the demanding problems seriously ill patients can present.

CALL FOR AN INSERVICE TODAY (716) 989-2009

- Home Connections Palliative CareSM
- Optimum Care - for severe Cardiac or Pulmonary Patients
- Advance Care Planning - sharing your wishes
- Pain/Symptom Management
- Supportive Care
- Myths & Facts of Hospice Care
- Delivering Bad News in a Good Way
- Coping with Grief and Loss (Life Transitions Center)

