

Hospice and your emergency department

Partnering for better health,
better outcomes and better lives



Benefits of hospice care

- Decreased hospital readmission rates
- Decreased hospital length of stay and hospital mortality rates
- Reduced emergency department visits at the end of life
- Reduced stress and ongoing support for friends and families
- Specific treatment and symptom relief of common symptoms near the end of life, such as pain, nausea, shortness of breath and confusion
- Holistic Support provided by physician, nurse, social worker, chaplain, hospice aide, bereavement and volunteers

Did you know?

- 50% of adults over 65 made at least one emergency department visit in the last month of life, according to a physician led study at the San Francisco VA Medical Center.*
- 75% of emergency department visits led to hospital admissions, and more than two-thirds of the study participants admitted to the hospital died there.
- In contrast, the 10% of study participants who enrolled in hospice care at least one month before death were much less likely to have made an Emergency Department visit or died in the hospital.

* Care Toward the End of Life. Alexander K. Smith, Ellen McCarthy, Ellen Weber, Irena Stijacic Cenzler, John Boscardin, Jonathan Fisher and Kenneth Covinsky. Health Affairs, June 2012 31:1277-1285

COMPASSUS HOSPICE

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Making a referral to hospice

Anyone on the Emergency Department team may initiate a call to hospice. To encourage timely enrollment in hospice care, please contact your Compassus representative as soon as possible. We are available to discuss end-of-life issues with patients and families or admit a patient to services:

**Available 24 hours,
7 days a week.**


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