

HOSPICE FACTS & STATISTICS



March 2008

Hospice care agencies provide supportive and palliative care to people at the end of life. Hospice agencies focus on comfort and quality of life, rather than curative treatments. Although the concept of hospice care dates to ancient times, the first hospice, the Connecticut Hospice, began providing services in the US in 1974.

Hospices rely on the combined knowledge and skill of an interdisciplinary team of professionals (e.g., physicians, nurses, medical social workers, therapists, counselors, home care aides, volunteers) to coordinate an individualized plan of care for each patient and family. Services, provided primarily in clients' homes, include medical, emotional, and spiritual care for terminally ill patients and their families. These are designed to bring comfort, peace, and a sense of dignity at a very trying time. Hospice reaffirms the right of every patient and family to participate fully in the final stage of life.

Medicare-Certified Hospices

In 1982, Congress created the Medicare hospice benefit, reserving such services for terminally ill Medicare beneficiaries with life expectancies of six months or less "if the disease runs its normal course." Effective with the enactment of the Balanced Budget Act of 1997, the Medicare hospice benefit was divided into the following benefit periods:

1. An initial 90-day period;
2. A subsequent 90-day period; and
3. An unlimited number of subsequent 60-day benefit periods as long as the patient continues to meet program eligibility requirements.

Beneficiaries must be re-certified as terminally ill at the beginning of each benefit period. The following

covered hospice services are provided as necessary for palliative treatment for terminal illnesses:

- Nursing care
- Medical social worker services
- Physician services
- Counseling (including dietary, pastoral, and other)
- Inpatient care (including respite care and short-term inpatient care for procedures necessary for pain control and acute and chronic symptom management)
- Home care aide and homemaker services
- Medical appliances and supplies (including drugs and biologicals)
- Physical and occupational therapies
- Speech-language pathology services
- Bereavement services are also available for families (up to 13 months following a patient's death)

From 1984 to January 2008, the total number of hospices participating in Medicare rose from 31 to 3,257, a more than 105-fold increase (Table 1: See Appendix A for all tables and figures). Of these hospices, 2,050 are free-standing, 627 are home health agency-based, 562 are hospital-based, and 18 are skilled nursing facility-based. There are also an estimated 200 volunteer agencies that are not Medicare-certified.

According to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), 47 states licensed hospices in 2002.¹ In 2006, Medicare-certified hospices served 964,614 Medicare patients.² Table 2 shows the calendar year 2006 distribution of Medicare-

¹ Hospice Association of America. October 2002.

² Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Health Care Information Service, February 2008.

certified hospices by state as well as each state's number of patients, total charges, and program payments. These data for provided by CMS for Medicare-certified hospices are slightly dated, and little is known about hospices that do not participate in Medicare or Medicaid.

Hospice Financing

In 2007, total national health care expenditures were projected to be \$2.25 trillion.³ Although little specific information is available on national expenditures for hospice, detailed data are available on Medicare hospice expenditures and utilization. Some data also are available on hospice spending under the Medicaid program. In addition to Medicare and Medicaid, another source of hospice revenue is private insurance companies. Community donations and grants also contribute to the revenue base, often to fund non-reimbursed hospice services for patients with little or no insurance. Table 3 indicates the breakdown of 1998 and 2000 hospice expenditures by source of payment.

Medicare

The Medicare hospice benefit still represents a small proportion of total Medicare spending. In 2007, an estimated 2.3 percent of Medicare benefit payments were spent on hospice care, and the same is expected in 2008 (Table 4). Meanwhile, approximately 35 percent of the estimated \$428 billion in Medicare spending for FY 2007 and 34 percent of the projected \$453 billion in spending for FY 2008 will go to hospitals for Part A and Part B. In FY 2007, approximately 14 percent of Medicare spending will go to physician services, and approximately 13 percent in FY 2008.

Despite the consistent portion of spending from Medicare, a growing number of Medicare beneficiaries are receiving hospice care, and the outlays for hospice have grown. Table 5 provides past year expenditures on hospice, as well as the number of Medicare beneficiaries served by Medicare-certified hospice, the average number of days per patient, and the average cost per patient.

Free-standing hospices served the majority of Medicare hospice clients, while skilled nursing facility-based hospices served the fewest. The

average length of stay for patients in these facilities ranged from 52.6 to 69 days. (Table 6 details Medicare-subsidized hospice utilization for FY 2005 by type of hospice.) Table 7 illustrates Medicare hospice expenditures and utilization by type of care for FY 2002 through FY 2005. Table 8 reveals average Medicare reimbursements per unit of care for the four categories of hospice care and hospice-related physician services for FY 2003 through FY 2008.

Medicare's Payment Structure

Medicare payments for hospice services are made on a prospective basis under four levels of care, and are adjusted by an area wage index. This local adjustment is necessary to permit higher rates in areas with higher wage levels, and proportionately lower rates in areas with wage levels below the national average. Industry representatives, including the Hospice Association of America, participated in a negotiated process for rulemaking with the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA, now CMS) to derive a new wage index. This new index, which for a period consisted of a blend of old and new area wage indexes, is still based on hospital wage data.

Medicare hospice rates also vary according to the level of care received by the beneficiary. The FY 2008 published payment rates, adjusted by the hospital market basket index, are as follows. Section 321 of the Benefits Improvement and Protection Act of 2000 included a provision mandating a five percent increase in hospice rates for FY 2001.

This increase continues as part of the hospice base rate. Current rates, effective October 1, 2007, are listed below:

Routine Home Care Day: \$135.11. This category is for individuals receiving hospice care at home. The rate does not vary by volume or intensity of services

Continuous Home Care Day: \$788.55 for 24 hours, or \$32.86 per hour. Individuals in this category must need services for a period of at least eight hours (one-half of which must be skilled nursing) within a 24-hour period beginning at midnight, but only for brief periods of crisis and only as necessary to maintain the terminally ill individual at home.

³ Keehan, Sean, A. Sisko, C. Truffer, S. Smith, et al. "Health Spending Projections Through 2017: The Baby Boom Generation Is Coming To Medicare." Health Affairs (Web Exclusive W145): February 26, 2008.

Inpatient Respite Care Day: \$139.76. Care may be provided for no more than five days at a time in an inpatient facility.

General Inpatient Care Day: \$601.02. Care may be provided in a Medicare-certified hospital, skilled nursing facility, or inpatient unit of a hospice.

Medicare payments to hospices are subject to an overall aggregate per patient "cap amount." The Medicare fiscal intermediary calculates each hospice's cap amount by multiplying the adjusted cap amount by the number of Medicare beneficiaries who elected to receive hospice care from that hospice during the cap period, beginning November 1 and ending October 31 of the following year. Each hospice must refund Medicare payments in excess of this aggregated cap amount. The cap amount is adjusted annually for inflation or deflation. For the year ending October 31, 2007, the cap amount was \$21,410.04.

Hospice Profitability and Payment for Medicare Beneficiaries

A 2004 Government Accountability Office (GAO) report estimated that the Medicare per diem rate for all hospice care in free-standing hospices was 8 percent higher than Medicare costs in 2000 and more than 10 percent higher in 2001. The per diem costs for smaller hospices were, on average, higher than per diem costs for medium or large hospices for each of the payment categories. Costs were higher than Medicare payments for inpatient respite care days, but lower for continuous home care, routine home care, and general inpatient care days.

According to an analysis by McCue and Thompson in 2005, total margins of free-standing hospices varied by agency size and for-profit/non-profit status in 2003 free-standing hospice cost report data. This analysis showed that the median profit margin for large for-profit agencies was 18 percent, but the median for large non-profits was 2 percent. These total margins were calculated using all payers' payments and all patients' costs, so they may differ from Medicare margins.

The Medicare Payment Advisory Commission (MedPAC) suggests that changes in the use and provision of hospice care should lead to a re-evaluation of the hospice payment system. Such an evaluation would assess whether changes to the benefit structure and payment rates, which were

developed 25 years ago, would improve the accuracy of the payment rate.

Accurate payment for all types of patients is important to ensure that the program is paying rates that cover providers' costs for all types of patients. Making this determination is difficult, as Medicare administrative data offer little detail about hospice services used by each patient. Type of services provided, type of personnel providing the care, and frequency and duration of patient visits are not collected on Medicare claims. Only payment category billed and the number of days for each category is currently available. Medicare would have to collect additional data in order to make a comprehensive evaluation of patient costs and service use by hospice patients. CMS will begin collecting data on visit frequency and charges in July, 2008.

Medicare Beneficiary Liability

Beneficiary liability for the cost of hospice services is minimal. Hospices may charge a 5 percent coinsurance for each drug furnished outside the inpatient setting, but that coinsurance may not exceed \$5 per drug. For inpatient respite care, beneficiary liability is 5 percent of Medicare's respite care payment per day. Beneficiary copayment for respite care may not exceed the Part A inpatient deductible, which is \$1,024 per year for calendar year (CY) 2008.⁴

Medicaid-Funded Hospice

Hospice is an optional Medicaid service, currently not available in three states and all five U.S. territories (Table 9). In FY 2004, hospice services comprised only 0.4 percent of total Medicaid payments. Medicaid hospice expenditures totaled \$1,129 million in FY 2004, an increase of 25.8 percent from the \$898 million spent in FY 2003 (Table 10).

As is true for Medicare, hospice services represent a relatively small part of total Medicaid payments. In FY 2004, 33.7% of nearly \$259 billion in Medicaid vendor payments went to hospital and skilled nursing- facility services (Table 11).

Managed Care and Hospice

Health care services in the United States are increasingly financed through managed care

⁴ Federal Register, Vol. 72, No. 193, Friday, October 5, 2007, page 57035.

organizations. A managed care contract generally specifies a negotiated fee, often called a capitated payment, for the care of patients. A fully capitated plan specifies a lump sum payment per enrollee to cover all care provided through the plan.

An enrollee's choice of provider and access to specialty care varies under managed care arrangements, but there tend to be incentives for consumers to use certain providers who are part of the managed care organization's network. In contrast, traditional health insurance, commonly known as "fee-for-service," pays care providers based on the number of services delivered, with few limitations on which providers it will pay.

A MedPAC report released in June 2006 revealed that about 38 percent of the individuals in Medicare's managed care plan, Medicare+Choice, chose hospice compared to 31 percent enrolled in the traditional Medicare benefit at time of death.⁵ (Figure 1)

Managed care is most prevalent in the employer-based health insurance market. In 2002, ninety-five percent of insured workers received health benefits through a managed care plan.⁶ Managed care enrollment has increased among Medicaid beneficiaries, particularly in states that have federal waivers to convert their Medicaid program to a managed care program. As of December 31, 2006, 65.44 percent of all Medicaid beneficiaries were enrolled in managed care.⁷ Medicare managed care enrollment has increased at a slower pace. As of January 2008, 20.1 percent of Medicare beneficiaries were enrolled in Medicare Advantage.⁸

When a Medicare-eligible patient who is an enrollee of a Medicare participating managed care organization (MCO) elects hospice care, the hospice services must be provided through a Medicare-approved hospice, and the individual must meet the eligibility requirements specified by Medicare. The patient does not need a referral from the MCO, and is not required to disenroll from the MCO. Medicare pays the hospice for its services

and the MCO for attending physician services and services not related to the patient's terminal illness.

In addition, MCOs are required to inform enrollees about the availability of hospice care if: 1) a Medicare-certified hospice is located in the MCO's service area; or 2) it is common practice to refer patients to hospice programs outside their service area.

The increasingly competitive health care market has created incentives for hospices to enter managed care provider networks. Hospices have considerable experience managing payments under the Medicare prospective reimbursement system's per-patient cap. Little is known about the extent to which hospices have entered into managed care arrangements or what impact these arrangements have on hospice clients.

Private Insurance

A study sponsored by the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services examined the use of hospice benefits and services through Medicare and private insurance (Tables 12-15). Of 52 Summary Plan Descriptions (SPD's), which explain private insurer's hospice benefits, hospice was identified as a covered benefit in 46. Table 12 indicates whether different plans offer a hospice benefit by plan type: indemnity, point-of-service, or preferred provider organization. A very high proportion of each plan type (84.4 percent to 100 percent) offered the benefit.

The remaining results of this study are based on the 46 SPDs that offer an explicitly specified hospice benefit. They represent 19 large employers. The data were collected in early winter 1998, but since plans do not typically update their SPDs annually, the available SPDs are dated from 1986 to 1996.

The percentages in Table 13 represent the proportion of plan types with certain hospice benefit-related criteria. As this table shows, most plans provide a definition of hospice and require pre-certification from a physician to prove terminal illness. All SPDs providing a description of the hospice benefit identified the terminally ill as its target group. But only half of the plans provided an operational definition of the term "terminally ill." In all cases where a definition was provided, "terminally ill" was defined as a prognosis of six

⁵ Medicare Payment Advisory Commission, Report to Congress: New Approaches in Medicare. June 2004.

⁶ Gabel, J., L. Levitt, J. Pickreign, et al. "Job-Based Health Benefits in 2002: The Latest Outlook." Health Affairs 21, no. 5 (September/October 2002).

⁷ Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. "Medicaid Managed Care Enrollment as of December 31, 2006," <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MedicaidDataSourcesGenInfo/Downloads/mmcp06.pdf> (November 2007).

⁸ MATHEMATICA Policy Research, Inc., "TRACKING MEDICARE HEALTH AND PRESCRIPTION DRUG PLANS Monthly Report for January 2008." February 7, 2008.

months or less to live. The majority of plans do not impose a lifetime day or dollar limit. However, of the 10.9 percent that stipulate a day limit, 80 percent have a 180-day limit, and 20 percent (representing one plan) have a 270-day limit. Dollar limits are somewhat more common and exist in 37 percent of plans. They range from \$5,000 to \$10,000; 70 percent of plans with a dollar limit set it at \$5,000.

The data in Table 14 indicate that indemnity and “point-of-service” plans offer the widest variety of hospice services. For both these plan types, there are several venues for the provision of hospice care in the hospital, in a hospice facility, or at home. A smaller proportion of plans will reimburse for hospice services provided in an extended care or skilled nursing facility. Counseling, both for the terminally ill individual and for family members, is also a benefit that is specified in the majority of indemnity and point-of-service SPDs. Other services such as respite care, homemakers, home health aides, equipment, etc. are less likely to be indicated as covered. The low percentage of point-of-service plans offering hospice services other than in-home hospice care is perplexing.

Hospice Providers

Hospices employ physicians, nurses, home care aides, social workers, chaplains, therapists, and counselors who work together as interdisciplinary teams to coordinate individualized plans of care for each patient and family. Little information is available on the total number of “formal” hospice caregivers. Neither the Bureau of Labor Statistics nor the major organizations that collect information on health care providers gather detailed information on the entire hospice industry.

CMS collects information on Medicare-certified hospice staff. Table 15 demonstrates that the number of volunteers slightly decreased from 2004 to 2005, while the number of employees increased nearly nine percent over the same period of time.

It is also important to note that many terminally ill patients receive informal care. Informal caregivers are family members, friends, or other unpaid helpers who are not trained as hospice volunteers.

A 2007 survey conducted by the Hospital and Healthcare Compensation Service (HCS), in cooperation with the Hospice Association of

America (HAA), collected information from 453 hospices on staff productivity (measured as the number of visits per 8-hour day). Hospice staff conducted from 3.41 visits per day on average for social workers to 5.95 visits per day on average for licensed practical nurses (Table 16). Registered nurses provided an average of 5.06 visits per day; physical therapists provided a 5.30 visit average. Social work visits are generally more time-intensive, which may account for the differences by discipline. Table 17 addresses average caseload for visit staff.

The HCS survey provides information on salary and benefits provided to employees in 66 job categories, including both administrative and non-supervisory positions. Summary results for administrators are shared in Table 18. Table 19 provides summary data on the hourly and per-visit compensation rates for hospice caregivers.⁹

Hospice Patients

In a June 2006 MedPAC report, NCHS 2003 data showed that cancer as the primary hospice diagnosis decreased from 75 percent in 1992 to 43 percent in 2002-2003 (Figure 2). The balance between hospice patients with cancer diagnoses and those with non-cancer diagnoses has shifted dramatically in that 10 year period.

MedPAC’s June 2004 Report to Congress showed that hospice use among all ethnicities has increased between 1998 and 2002 (Figure 3). White beneficiaries tend to use the hospice benefit more than other ethnicities. Differences in culture and heritage affecting views of death, differences in religion, education, and socialization are also factors that lower minority use of hospice is attributed to, as well as disparities in access to health care services in general.¹⁰

The number of Medicare hospice clients increased to 964,614 in CY 2006, and the average length of stay increased from 65.3 days in CY 2005 to 71.0 days in CY 2006. The 2007-2008 HCS Report broke the average visits, patients, FTEs and revenue down into two income categories, \$0 to \$4,999,999, and over \$5 million which shows that the average revenue per visit is slightly higher for the larger agencies (Table 20).

⁹ To order a copy of the 2007-2008 Hospice Salary & Benefits Report, contact the Hospice Association of America’s Publications Department, 228 Seventh Street, SE, Washington, DC 20003-4306; 202/546/4759.

¹⁰ Medicare Payment Advisory Commission, Report to Congress: Increasing the Value of Medicare. June 2006.

The share of beneficiaries aged 95 or older who died while in hospice care rose from 12 percent to 23 percent between 1998 and 2002 (Figure 4). Hospice use by beneficiaries in nursing facilities grew from 11 percent to 35 percent from 1992 to 2000.¹¹

The Cost-Effectiveness of Hospice

Compared to hospital and skilled nursing facilities, hospice is a cost-effective service. Table 21 compares the average costs for a Medicare patient to stay one day in a hospital, a skilled nursing facility, and a hospice. Hospice charges per day are substantially lower than hospitals and skilled nursing facilities.

A study conducted by Duke University (using data from the 1993-2003 National Long Term Care Survey) showed reduced Medicare expenditures in the last year of life. These savings averaged \$2309 per hospice user, with a maximum of \$7000 for cancer and \$3500 for other primary conditions. These savings were greatest for a cancer diagnosis when hospice was used for the last 58-103 days of life, and for other primary conditions, the last 50-108 days of life. The study directors estimate that increasing the length of hospice use for 7 in 10 Medicare hospice users would increase savings.¹²

Various studies on the cost-effectiveness of hospice, both federally and privately sponsored, also provide strong evidence that hospice is a less costly approach to care for the terminally ill. A 1988 study conducted by Abt Associates for HCFA (now CMS) concluded that during the first three years of the hospice benefit, Medicare saved \$1.26 for every \$1.00 spent on hospice care.¹³ The study found that much of these savings accrue over the last month of life, which is due in large part to the substitution of home care days for inpatient days during this period.

Additional research on hospice supports the premise that cost savings associated with hospice care are frequently unrealized because terminally ill Medicare patients often delay entering hospice care until they are within just a few weeks or days of dying, suggesting that more savings and more

appropriate treatment could be achieved through earlier enrollment.

The June 2006 MedPAC Report to Congress states that more than 25 percent of hospice patients are on the benefit less than a week. Using CMS Medicare claims data, MedPAC found the median length of stay for hospice patients was only 15 days.¹⁴ Hospice use grew from 22 percent of eligible dying in 2000 to 31 percent in 2004.¹⁵ The total number of covered days of hospice care doubled during that same period. The reluctance of caregivers, patients, and families to accept a terminal prognosis, along with the difficulty of predicting death may account for part of the delay. Education about hospice and its benefits may help broaden its use and improve end-of-life care.

The Demand for Hospice

Hospice is a humane and compassionate way to deliver health care and supportive services. Based largely on interviews with family members, a study of the end-of-life experience of 3,357 older decedents and seriously ill patients who died reported that 40 percent were in severe pain prior to their death, and 25 percent experienced moderate to great anxiety or depression before they died.¹⁶ The researchers found that very few patients received hospice care prior to their deaths, and they suggested that encouraging hospice might alleviate some of the distress that patients typically face at the end of life. Hospice care allows terminally ill patients and their families to remain together in the comfort and dignity of their homes, preserving one of our country's most important social values by keeping families together. In addition, hospice care allows family members to take an active role in providing or supplementing the care given by formal caregivers.

The number of patients accessing the Medicare Hospice benefit has increased in recent years. The largest growth has been in residents of nursing facilities. MedPAC's 2004 Report to the Congress noted that the number of hospice patients residing in nursing facilities increased from 11 percent to 36 percent from 1992 through 2000. Brown University researchers, in a study entitled, "Hospice

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² Traylor, D. H. Jr., et al. "What length of hospice use maximizes reduction in medical expenditures near death in the US Medicare program?" *Social Science & Medicine* (2007), doi:10.1016/j.socscimed.2007.05.028.

¹³ Kidder, D., "The Effects of Hospice Coverage on Medicare Expenditures." *Health Services Research* 117 (1992): 599-606.

¹⁴ Medicare Payment Advisory Commission, *A Data Book: Healthcare spending and the Medicare program*. June 2006.

¹⁵ Medicare Payment Advisory Commission, *Report to Congress: Increasing the Value of Medicare*. June 2006.

¹⁶ Lynn, J., J. Teno, R. Phillips, A. Wu, N. Desbiens, et al. "Perceptions by Family Members of the Dying Experience of Older and Seriously Ill Patients." *Annals of Internal Medicine* 126, no. 2 (January 15, 1997): 97-106.

enrollment and hospitalization of dying nursing home patients,” revealed that when hospice care is integrated into nursing home care, there are decreased hospitalizations for the SNF patients. Table 22 shows the percent of hospice caseload residing in a SNF or LTC facility.

Resident Hospices

The 2007-2008 HCS Report revealed that 15.63 percent of responding hospices have their own residence. The average number of residential beds was 13.64 (see Table 23 for how hospices are staffing the residence). Some additional employees included chaplain, volunteers, therapists and bereavement counselors. Table 24 shows how these residences are funded. Some other responses included donations and insurance.

The Future of Hospice

Trends indicate that as more patients and families are educated about its many benefits, hospice is growing as an attractive alternative to facing death in a clinical setting. Nevertheless, only a fraction of those who have the option of hospice care choose to participate in it. Physicians and nurses caring for patients with terminal illnesses in clinical facilities need to open the dialogue with families about the option of hospice and its possible benefits to patients and their caregivers. Until clinicians, patients, and families become more comfortable talking about death and the dying process, hospice will remain marginalized as an excellent option for accessing supportive services during an extremely difficult time.

Appendix A: Tables and Figures to Accompany Hospice Facts & Stats

Table 1: Number of Medicare-certified Hospices, by Auspice, 1984-2007

Year	HHA	HOSP	SNF	FSTG	TOTAL
1984	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	31
1985	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	158
1986	113	54	10	68	245
1987	155	101	11	122	389
1988	213	138	11	191	553
1989	286	182	13	220	701
1990	313	221	12	260	806
1991	325	282	10	394	1,011
1992	334	291	10	404	1,039
1993	438	341	10	499	1,288
1994	583	401	12	608	1,604
1995	699	460	19	679	1,857
1996	815	526	22	791	2,154
1997	823	561	22	868	2,274
1998	763	553	21	878	2,215
1999	762	562	22	928	2,274
2000	739	554	20	960	2,273
2001	690	552	20	1003	2,265
2002	676	557	17	1,072	2,322
2003	653	561	16	1,214	2,444
2004	656	562	14	1,438	2,670
2005	672	551	13	1,648	2,884
2006	650	563	14	1,851	3,078
2007	627	562	18	2,050	3,257

Source: Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), Health Standards and Quality Bureau (February 2008).

Notes: Home health agency-based (HHA) hospices are owned and operated by freestanding proprietary and nonprofit home care agencies. Hospital-based (HOSP) hospices are operating units or departments of a Hospital.

Table 2: Number of Medicare-certified Hospices and Program Payments, by State, 2006

State	# of Hospices	# of Persons	#of Hospice Days	Program Payments (\$thousands)
AL	120	27,877	2,965,324	354,059
AK	5	409	21,535	3,302
AZ	56	29,335	2,312,349	346,053
AR	52	9,471	686,962	89,265
CA	196	82,211	5,049,811	810,643
CO	47	14,054	884,684	126,136
CT	30	9,341	390,166	79,833
DE	7	3,424	228,117	33,937
DC	3	910	40,895	6,895
FL	42	90,540	6,371,479	1,032,579
GA	124	30,193	2,049,253	292,109
HI	7	1,916	97,395	16,122
ID	36	4,203	340,435	43,018
IL	103	35,325	1,944,316	291,572
IN	79	20,897	1,393,417	184,518
IA	70	14,001	800,559	106,994
KS	55	9,701	706,155	89,985
KY	27	11,882	693,271	91,254
LA	100	14,604	1,085,943	132,839
ME	17	3,761	227,649	31,990
MD	27	1,683	683,318	93,208
MA	53	18,900	1,118,773	175,118
MI	92	35,577	1,967,961	275,848
MN	63	13,016	846,431	111,171
MS	90	15,287	1,740,840	207,029
MO	95	24,708	1,759,795	212,395
MT	26	2,696	161,718	20,911
NE	33	5,316	299,493	37,443
NV	14	7,048	402,165	66,772
NH	20	3,440	174,345	27,894
NJ	52	23,982	1,289,823	204,851
NM	44	7,544	640,646	85,534
NY	50	34,330	1,841,427	293,018
NC	80	29,761	2,282,373	310,891
ND	14	1,876	116,963	14,283
OH	101	45,505	2,764,817	401,221
OK	143	20,206	2,129,384	252,951
OR	49	14,728	837,841	118,168
PA	144	49,080	3,206,995	417,196
PR	34	8,074	3,827,789	75,415
RI	8	4,211	244,309	40,208
SC	62	15,012	1,229,941	162,410
SD	14	1,981	100,857	13,001
TN	56	18,885	1,211,610	168,936
TX	255	67,468	4,923,645	672,272
UT	59	8,673	738,903	96,555
VT	10	1,359	74,192	10,019
VI	2	121	10,501	1,169
VA	72	18,355	1,134,819	148,040
WA	32	16,651	928,429	140,749
WV	18	5,787	422,471	54,434
WI	57	17,501	1,078,167	149,700
WY	18	798	46,422	6,249

Source: Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Health Care Information System (HCIS). February 2008.

Notes: Medicare program payments represent fee-for-service only; that is, program payments exclude amounts paid for managed care services. Numbers may not add to totals because of rounding.

Source of Payment	1998 Percent	2000 Percent
Medicare	72.4	70.2
Medicaid/MediCal	4.9	4.4
Private Insurance	14.2	9.9
Out of Pocket	3.4	0.2
Other	5.1	0.9
Unknown	n/a	14.4

Source: US Department of Health & Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, 2000 National Home and Hospice Care Survey, CD-ROM Series 13, No. 31. July 2002.

	2007 (Estimated)		2008 (Projected)	
	Amount (\$millions)	% of Total	Amount (\$millions)	% of Total
Total Medicare Benefit Payments*	427,933	100.0	452,881	100.0
<u>Part A</u>				
Hospital care	129,675	30.3	132,900	29.3
Skilled nursing facility	22,198	5.2	22,645	5.0
Home health	6,350	1.5	6,348	1.4
Hospice	10,008	2.3	10,454	2.3
Managed Care	39,230	9.2	48,826	10.8
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>207,461</u>	<u>48.5</u>	<u>221,172</u>	<u>48.8</u>
<u>Part B</u>				
Physician	58,561	13.7	60,636	13.4
Durable medical equipment	8,169	1.9	8,584	1.9
Carrier lab	3,982	0.9	4,076	0.9
Other carrier	16,003	3.7	17,108	3.8
Hospital	20,735	4.8	21,597	4.8
Home health	9,116	2.1	10,028	2.2
Intermediary lab	2,845	0.7	2,877	0.6
Other intermediary	12,092	2.8	13,015	2.9
Managed care	37,724	8.8	45,814	10.1
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>169,227</u>	<u>39.5</u>	<u>183,736</u>	<u>40.6</u>

Source: Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Office of the Actuary, FY 2009 President's budget (February 2008).
*Part A total does not include peer review organization payments. Figures may not add to totals due to rounding.

Table 5: Medicare Hospice Outlays, Clients, Days per Client, and Dollar Amount Per Client, FY89-FY2003 and CY2004-CY2006

FY	Outlays (\$millions)	#of Clients	Avg. Days (per client)	Avg. \$ (per client)
1989	205.4	60,802	44.8	\$3,020
1990	308.8	76,491	48.4	4,037
1991	445.4	108,413	44.5	4,108
1992	853.6	156,583	56.1	5,452
1993	1,151.9	202,768	57.2	5,681
1994	1,316.7	221,849	58.9	5,935
1995	1,830.5	302,608	58.8	6,049
1996	1,944.0	338,273	54.5	5,747
1997	2,024.5	374,723	50.1	5,402
1998	2,171.0	401,140	47.6	5,412
1999	2,435.1	445,146	44.5	5,471
2000	2,895.5	513,840	47.3	5,635
2001	3,610.7	579,801	49.9	6,228
2002	4,516.6	643,303	53.0	7,021
2003	5,682.3	713,400	57.6	7,965
2004*	6,717.1	797,117	65.0	8,405
2005*	7,904.4	893,856	65.3	8,843
2006*	9,228.2	964,614	71.0	9,567

Source: Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Office of the Actuary, Center for Health Plans and Providers (March 2005).
 *Data for 2004, 2005 and 2006 represent calendar year (CY) data and is from CMS/OIS/HCIS.

Table 6: Medicare Hospice Outlays, Clients, and Days per Client, by Type of Agency, FY2005

Auspice	% of Outlays	#of Clients	Avg. Days (per client)
Freestanding	70.8	583,821	69.0
Hospital-based	11.9	117,597	52.6
Skilled nursing facility-based	0.4	3,854	54.9
Home health agency-based	17.0	161,777	53.6
TOTAL	100.0	791,568	63.8

Source: Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Standard Analytical Files – 100% Final Action Claims (Nov. 2006).
Note: The total for average days per client is weighted by the number of beneficiaries in each hospice type.

Table 7: Medicare Hospice Utilization by Type of Care, FY2002-FY2005

Type of Care	Units of Care FY2002	Units of Care FY2003	Units of Care FY2004	Units of Care FY2005	% Care by Type, FY2005
Routine days	33,028,464	39,898,744	47,054,341	53,999,676	96.5
Continuous hours	2,510,587	3,212,941	4,048,2277	4,748,147	1.1
Inpatient respite days	67,620	75,481	85,389	96,646	0.2
General inpatient days	885,337	1,045,845	1,138,866	1,250,678	2.2
Physician procedures	478,272	573,545	639,872	778,906	n/a

Source: Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Office of the Actuary, Center for Health Plans and Providers (November 2006).

Table 8: Average Medicare Reimbursements for Hospice Care, Selected Years FY2003-FY2008

	FY2003	FY2004	FY2005	FY2006	FY2007	FY2008
Routine home care (per day)	\$114.20	\$118.08	\$121.98	\$126.49	\$130.79	\$135.11
Continuous home care (per hour)	27.77	28.72	29.66	30.76	31.81	32.86
Inpatient respite (per day)	118.13	122.15	126.18	130.85	135.30	139.76
General inpatient care (per day)	508.01	525.28	542.61	562.69	581.82	601.02

Source Data from Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), Center for Health Plans and Providers, 2003 & 2004 data from CMS Program Memorandum Intermediaries Transmittal A-03-057 (July 3, 2003), 2005 data from CMS Hospice Wage Index, CMS Reference #CMS-1264-N (July 2004). 2006 data from CMS Transmittal #R655CP (August 2005), 2007 data from CMS Manual System Transmittal 1094 (October 27, 2006), 2008 data from CMS Manual System Transmittal 1280 (June 29, 2007).

Note: Average reimbursements based on total outlays and total units of care.

Table 9: U.S. States and Territories that DO NOT Provide the Medicaid Hospice Benefit, 2006

States	Territories
Connecticut New Hampshire Oklahoma	American Samoa Guam Northern Mariana Islands Puerto Rico Virgin Islands

Sources: Kaiser Family Foundation online (www.kff.org) and state and territory Medicaid offices.

Table 10: Medicaid Hospice Outlays, FY87-2004

Fiscal Year	Outlays (\$millions)	Annual Percent Change
1987	1.5	n/a
1988	3.9	165.4
1989	18.9	385.4
1990	20.2	7.0
1991	44.1	117.9
1992	84.2	90.9
1993	128.9	53.1
1994	197.6	53.3
1995	283.5	43.5
1996	318.7	12.4
1997	327.3	2.7
1998	325.0	-0.7
1999	344.9	6.1
2000	402.6	16.7
2001	546.1	35.6
2002	706.2	29.3
2003	897.6	27.2
2004	1,129.1	25.8

Source: Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (Form CMS-64), www.cms.gov, (February 2008).
Note: FY96 totals exclude data for Florida and Hawaii. FY97 totals exclude data for Hawaii. FY99 and FY 2000 totals exclude Medicaid SCHIP.

Table 11: Medicaid Payments, by Type of Service, FY 2003 & FY 2004

	2003 (\$millions)	% of Total	2004 (\$millions)	% of Total
Inpatient hospital	31,549.2	13.5	34,914.5	13.5
Nursing home	40,381.0	17.2	42,007.5	16.2
Physician	9,209.9	3.9	10,060.7	3.9
Outpatient hospital	9,251.9	4.0	10,260.6	4.0
Home health ^d	21,649.3	9.2	23,060.1	8.9
Hospice ^b	897.6	0.4	1,129.1	0.4
Prescription drugs	33,714.3	14.4	39,475.6	15.2
ICF (MR) services ^c	10,861.2	4.6	11,192.6	4.3
Other	76,589.1	32.7	87,906.1	34.0
Total payments ^a	234,103.5	100.0	258,877.6	100.0

Source: Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Division of Medical Statistics, Data are from MSIS (formerly Form HCFA-2082), with the exception of hospice data, which are from Form CMS-64. (www.cms.hhs.gov, February 2008).

Notes: ^aTotal outlays include hospice outlays from the Form CMS-64 plus payments for all service types included in the MSIS, not just the eight service types listed. For data anomalies, see *MSIS/State Anomalies/Issues: All States* at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/medicaid/msis/anomalies.pdf>, ^bHospice outlays come from Form CMS-64 and do not include Medicaid SCHIP. All other expenditures come from the MSIS. The federal share of Medicaid's hospice spending in FY 2003, was \$534.7 million, or 59.6% of total Medicaid hospice payments. In FY 2004, it was \$682.1 million, or 60.4% of total Medicaid hospice payments. ^cICF is intermediate care facilities. ^dHome health includes both home health and personal support services.

Figures may not add to totals due to rounding.

	Indemnity	POS^a	PPO^b
Hospice Benefit Offered	84.4%	90.0%	100.0%
Hospice Benefit Not Offered	15.6%	10.0%	00.0%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Source: Jackson B, Gibson T, Staeheli, J. *Hospice Benefits and Utilization in the Large Employer Market*. Washington, DC: The MEDSTAT GROUP, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation; March 2000.
Note: Findings based on results from 32 Indemnity plans, 10 Point of Service (POS) plans, and 10 Preferred Provider Organization (PPO) plans.

Characteristic	Indemnity	POS	PPO	Total
Definition of Hospice Provided	92.6%	88.9%	70.0%	87.0%
Definition of Terminal Illness Specified	55.6%	66.7%	20.0%	50.0%
Other Benefits Reduced if Hospice Elected	7.4%	0.0%	0.0%	4.3%
Precertification Required	92.6%	88.9%	80.0%	89.1%
Deductible for Hospice Benefits	48.1%	22.2%	20.0%	37.0%
Coinsurance for Hospice Benefits (in network)	40.7%	44.4%	30.0%	39.1%
Coinsurance for Hospice Benefits (out of network)	7.4%	100.0%	50.0%	34.8%
Lifetime Limit – Days	11.1%	22.1%	0.0%	10.9%
Lifetime Limit – Dollars	44.4%	22.2%	30.0%	37.0%

Source: Jackson B, Gibson T, Staeheli, J. *Hospice Benefits and Utilization in the Large Employer Market*. Washington, DC: The MEDSTAT GROUP, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation; March 2000.
Note: Findings based on results from 27 Indemnity plans, 9 Point of Service (POS) plans, and 10 Preferred Provider Organization (PPO) plans.

Table 14: Services Covered Under the Hospice Benefit by Plan Type

Service	Indemnity	POS	PPO
Hospice in Hospital	81.5%	77.8%	40.0%
In-Patient Hospice Facility	77.8%	88.9%	20.0%
Hospice in an Extended Care Facility/SNF	48.1%	33.3%	20.0%
In-Home Hospice	77.8%	66.7%	70.0%
Case Management	44.4%	66.7%	50.0%
Respite	40.7%	11.1%	20.0%
Homemaker	55.6%	44.4%	10.0%
Home Health Aide	42.3%	44.4%	50.0%
Individual Counseling	70.4%	88.9%	30.0%
Family Counseling	7.8%	66.7%	40.0%
Equipment	66.7%	44.4%	10.0%
Other Therapies	88.9%	55.6%	30.0%

Source: Jackson B, Gibson T, Staeheli, J. *Hospice Benefits and Utilization in the Large Employer Market*. Washington, DC: The MEDSTAT GROUP, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation; March 2000.

Note: Findings based on results from 27 Indemnity plans, 9 Point of Service (POS) plans, and 10 Preferred Provider Organization (PPO) plans.

Table 15: Number of Full-time Employees and Volunteers Working in Medicare-certified Hospice, 2006 & 2007

Caregiver Type	Employees		Volunteers	
	2006	2007	2006	2007
Counselors	4,171	4,668	1,293	1,298
RNs	26,029	27,578	417	430
LPNs/LVNs	5,826	6,105	100	102
Physicians	3,070	3,487	877	777
MSWs	6,574	7,128	211	222
Homemakers	2,656	2,748	2,343	2,399
HHAs	16,591	17,804	616	444
Other	17,581	18,925	39,937	42,115
TOTAL	82,498	88,443	45,793	47,786

Source: CMS, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Online Survey Certification and Reporting data through December of each year listed.

Table 16: Staff Productivity in Hospice, 2006 & 2007

Job Title	Average Visits per 8-hour Day	
	2006	2007
RN	5.02	5.06
LPN	6.02	5.95
HCA	5.30	5.14
Physical Therapist	5.47	5.30
Occupational Therapist	5.33	5.14
Social Worker	3.53	3.41

Source: *Hospice Salary & Benefits Report 2006-2007* and *Hospice Salary & Benefits Report 2007-2008*, Hospital & Healthcare Compensation Service in cooperation with Hospice Association of America, October 2006 and October 2007.

Table 17: Average Caseload

Job Title	National Average
RN	12.56
LPN	13.32
HCA	10.88
Physical Therapist	23.00
Occupational Therapist	29.70
Social Worker	25.15
Chaplain	13.32

Source: *Hospice Salary & Benefits Report, 2007-2008*, Hospital & Healthcare Compensation Service in cooperation with Hospice Association of America, October 2007.

Table 18: Average Compensation of Hospice Executives, October 2007

	Salary by Percentile		
	25 th	50 th	75 th
Director of Hospice	\$71,557	\$88,400	\$102,574
Top-Level Financial Executive	\$71,136	\$79,000	\$97,167
Director of Clinical Services	\$65,000	\$72,660	\$81,438
Director of Social Work and Counseling	\$50,907	\$58,260	\$68,480
QI/Utilization Review Manager	\$53,560	\$64,000	\$73,645

Source: *Hospice Salary & Benefits Report 2007-2008*, Hospital & Healthcare Compensation Service in cooperation with Hospice Association of America, October 2007.

Notes: **Director of Hospice** is the top level position for the hospice and can be the owner. **Top Level Financial Executive** is responsible for direction and coordination activities concerned with financial administration. **Director of Clinical Services** plans and implements, and directs nurses/clinical services. **Director of Social Work and Counseling** is responsible for planning and administering social work and counseling programs and may include supervision of Bereavement Coordinator and Chaplain. **QI/Utilization Review Manager** is responsible for coordination of interdepartmental quality improvement activities.

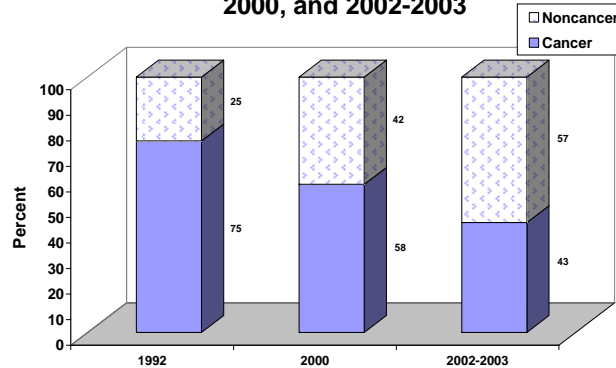
Table 19: Average Hourly and Per Visit Compensation of Selected Hospice Caregivers, October 2007

	Per-Hour Rate Range			Per-Visit Rate Range		
	Average Minimum (\$)	Average (\$)	Average Maximum (\$)	Average Minimum (\$)	Average (\$)	Average Maximum (\$)
Registered Nurse (RN)	24.00	26.82	28.89	33.00	37.83	42.00
Practical Nurse (LPN)	16.96	19.04	20.74	20.75	26.88	30.07
Physical Therapist	30.01	33.29	35.11	47.45	53.32	57.20
Social Worker (MSW)	20.23	22.85	24.94	46.63	48.76	54.75
Dir. of Volunteer Services	15.95	19.13	22.06	n/a	n/a	n/a

Source: *Hospice Salary & Benefits Report, 2007-2008*, Hospital & Healthcare Compensation Service in cooperation with Hospice Association of America, October 2007.

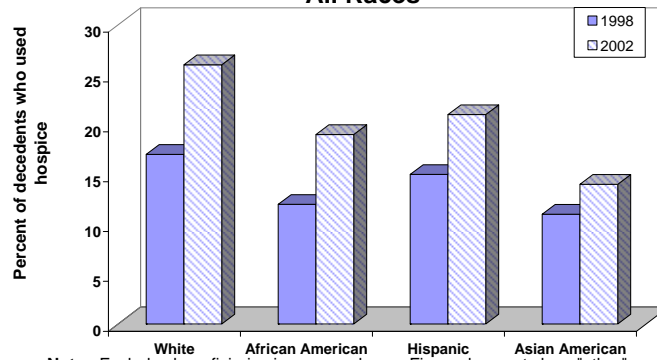
Notes: The average rate is based on the reported weighted average of workers with the same job title in an agency. Similarly, the minimum and maximum averages are weighted by agency. **Physical Therapist** organizes and conducts medically prescribed therapy programs involving exercise and other treatments. **Social Worker** identifies and analyzes the social and emotional factors underlying client illness. **Director of Volunteer Services** organizes and directs a program for recruiting and training volunteer workers. **Practical Nurse** is a Licensed Practical Nurse.

Figure 2. Hospice Patients by Diagnosis, 1992, 2000, and 2002-2003



Source: Medicare Payment Advisory Commission, "Report to Congress: Increasing the Value of Medicare," June 2006.

Figure 3. Hospice Use Has Increased Among All Races



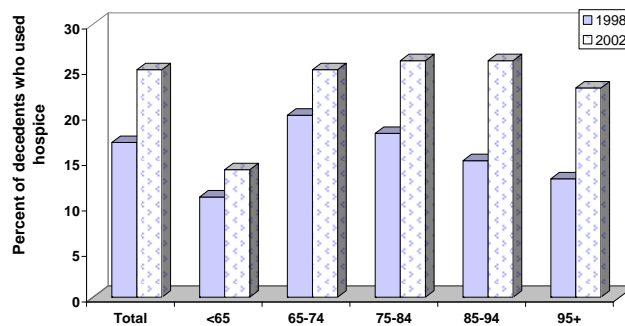
Note: Excludes beneficiaries in managed care. Figure does not show "other" or unidentified race.

Source: MedPAC analysis of 5 percent enrollee database from CMS, 2003.

Table 20: Average Visits, Patients, FTEs, and Revenue					
	Average Visits	# Unduplicated Patients	# FTEs	Average Revenue	Revenue Per Visit
\$0-\$4,999,999	11,152	407	28.90	2,299,393	206.19
Over \$5,000,000	68,453	1,317	127.10	14,439,695	210.94
All Revenues Combined	38,459	901	61.60	6,553,193	170.39

Source: *Hospice Salary & Benefits Report, 2007-2008*, Hospital & Healthcare Compensation Service in cooperation with Hospice Association of America, October 2007.

Figure 4. Growth in Hospice Use Is Greatest Among Older Decedents



Note: Excludes beneficiaries in managed care.
Source: MedPAC analysis of 5 percent enrollee database from CMS, 2003.

Table 21: Comparison of Hospital, SNF, and Hospice Medicare Charges, 1999-2007¹

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005 ¹	2006 ¹	2007 ¹
Hospital inpatient charges per day	\$2583	\$2762	\$3069	\$3574	\$4,117	\$4559	\$4,999	\$5,280	\$5,549
Skilled nursing facility charges per day	424	413	422	475	487	493	504	533	572
Hospice charges per covered day of care	113	118	120	125	129	132	137	141	144

Sources: The hospital and SNF Medicare charge data for 1999-2005 are from the Annual Statistical Supplement, 2005, to the Social Security Bulletin, Social Security Administration. The hospice charge data for 1999-2006 are from the Health Care Financing Review, Statistical Supplement, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, 2007.

Notes: ¹Hospital data for 2006 and 2007 are updated using the Bureau of Labor Statistics' (BLS) General medical and surgical hospitals Producer Price Index (PPI). SNF data for 2006 and 2007 are updated using the BLS Nursing care facilities PPI. Hospice data for 2007 are updated using the BLS Home health care services PPI.

Table 22: Average Percent of Hospice Caseload in SNF or LTC Facility

Region	Avg. %	Region	Avg. %
1	37.91	6	35.61
2	38.56	7	51.60
3	31.01	8	12.73
4	31.56	9	31.71
5	33.44	National	33.14

Source: *Hospice Salary & Benefits Report, 2007-2008*, Hospital & Healthcare Compensation Service in cooperation with Hospice Association of America, October 2007.

Note: Regions used in the survey do not match the regions used by CMS. Region 1: CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, VT. Region 2: NY, NJ, PA. Region 3: DE, DC, FL, GA, MD, NC, SC, VA, WV. Region 4: IL, IN, MI, OH, WI. Region 5: AL, KY, MI, TN. Region 6: IA, KS, MN, MO, NE, ND, SD. Region 7: AR, LA, OK, TX. Region 8: AZ, CO, ID, MT, NV, NM, UT, WY. Region 9: AK, CA, HI, OR, WA.

Table 23: Hospice Residence Staffing, by Percent

RN	LPN	HCA	SW
27.36	25.47	27.36	19.81

Source: *Hospice Salary & Benefits Report, 2007-2008*, Hospital & Healthcare Compensation Service in cooperation with Hospice Association of America, October 2007.

Table 24: Hospice Residence Funding, by Percent

Private Pay	Fundraising	Medicaid
39.73%	32.88%	27.40%

Source: *Hospice Salary & Benefits Report, 2007-2008*, Hospital & Healthcare Compensation Service in cooperation with Hospice Association of America, October 2007.