



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Transitions LifeCare selected to participate in the Medicare Care Choices Model

Model aims to increase choice and quality by enabling individuals to receive palliative and curative care concurrently

Raleigh, NC – Transitions LifeCare has been selected to participate in the Medicare Care Choices Model, announced today by Health and Human Services Secretary Sylvia M. Burwell. The model provides Medicare beneficiaries who qualify for coverage under the Medicare Hospice Benefit and dually eligible beneficiaries who qualify for the Medicaid Hospice Benefit the option to elect to receive supportive care services typically provided by hospice and continue to receive curative services at the same time. Today's announcement is part of a larger effort at HHS to transform our health care system to deliver better care, spend our dollars in a smarter way, and put patients in the center of their care.

All eligible hospices across the country were invited to apply to participate in the model. Due to robust interest, CMS expanded the model from an originally anticipated 30 Medicare-certified hospices to over 140 Medicare-certified hospices and extended the duration of the model from 3 to 5 years. This is expected to enable as many as 150,000 eligible Medicare beneficiaries with advanced cancers, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, congestive heart failure, human immunodeficiency virus/ acquired immunodeficiency syndrome who receive services from participating hospices to experience this new option and flexibility.

Participating hospices will provide services under the model that are currently available under the Medicare hospice benefit for routine home care and respite levels of care, but cannot be separately billed under Medicare Parts A, B, and D. Services will be available around the clock, 365 calendar days per year and CMS will pay a per beneficiary per month fee ranging from \$200 to \$400 to participating hospices when delivering these services under the model. Services will begin starting January 1, 2016 for the first phase of participating hospices and in January 2018 for the remaining participating hospices.

Individuals who wish to receive services under the model must fall into certain categories:

- Must be diagnosed with certain terminal illnesses (e.g., advanced cancers, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, congestive heart failure and human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immune deficiency syndrome);
- Must meet hospice eligibility requirements under the Medicare or Medicaid Hospice Benefit;
- Must not have elected the Medicare or Medicaid Hospice Benefit within the last 30 days prior to their participation in the Medicare Care Choices Model;
- Must receive services from a hospice that is participating in the model; and
- Must have satisfied model's other eligibility criteria.

More information about today's announcement is available at <http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2015pres/2015.html>.

For additional information on the model or list of participating hospices, visit <http://innovation.cms.gov/initiatives/Medicare-Care-Choices/> and <http://www.cms.gov/Newsroom/MediaReleaseDatabase/Fact-sheets/2015-Fact-sheets-items/2015-07-20.html>.

About Transitions LifeCare

Transitions LifeCare was founded as Hospice of Wake County in 1979. Providing physical, emotional and spiritual care to those living with an advanced illness, their caregivers, and those who have lost a loved one regardless of age, race, religion, or financial circumstances, our service area includes Johnston, Franklin, Durham, Harnett, eastern Chatham, and Wake counties, as well as Chapel Hill and Carrboro in Orange County; services include hospice, palliative care, home health, bereavement, and caregiver support. Guided by community-based boards of directors and supported by a dedicated professional staff, our goal is to provide compassionate end-of-life care that allows patients to enjoy every moment of their lives to the fullest. For more information on Transitions LifeCare call 919-828-0890 or visit www.transitionslifecare.org.

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