

# The Benefits of Early Referral

*Hospice care opens up a world of support.*



Although most people know that hospice care is for the end of life, we are often asked what this means. **When should a patient be referred to hospice?**

While hospice care may be appropriate at any time during a life-limiting illness, we have found that the quality of life of patients and their families is highest when in hospice care for as long as possible.

A new study by the NORC at the University of Chicago found that hospice care contributed \$3.5 billion in savings for Medicare in 2019. The total cost of care to Medicare for beneficiaries who used hospice services was 3.1% lower than for those who did not elect hospice services. In addition, earlier enrollment in hospice reduced Medicare spending even further.

## **Key findings of the study include:**

- Medicare spending for individuals that received hospice care was \$3.5 billion less than that of individuals who didn't.
- The total cost of care to Medicare for beneficiaries who used hospice services was 3.1% lower than for those who didn't use hospice services.
- Earlier enrollment in hospice reduces Medicare spending even further. Hospice is associated with lower Medicare end-of-life expenditures when lengths of stay are longer than 10 days.
- Hospice stays of six months or more result in an average 11% savings for Medicare.

## How Trustbridge Can Help

By providing the option of hospice care sooner, you can continue to make a positive change in the lives of your patients and help them to maximize their quality of life. We offer families excellent medical care, caregiver support, and healthcare support in our patients' homes. Services include:



Pain and symptom relief



Regular nursing visits



Caregiver guidance and support



Emotional and spiritual support for your family



Complementary therapies, such as music therapy



Delivery of medications, special equipment, and supplies

Families are entitled to hospice care for six months or longer if the patient continues to meet the medical criteria. Patients can choose to leave hospice care at any time, for any reason, and return later on if they meet admission criteria.

The earlier you call, the more you can benefit from our support. The number one comment we hear is, "I wish we had called sooner."

**To learn how Trustbridge can help you, your patients and their families, call 844.422.3648 or visit [trustbridge.com](https://trustbridge.com).**