



**LIFEPATH**  
H O S P I C E

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**LifePath Hospice One of 141 Hospices Selected Nationwide 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*

**TAMPA, FL (July 24, 2015):** LifePath Hospice, an affiliate of Chapters Health System, has been selected to participate in the Medicare Care Choices Model, announced 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. This announcement is part of a larger effort 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.

“With more than 5,800 in operation across the nation, only 141 hospices were selected to participate in the Medicare Care Choices Model. This type of model is not traditionally seen in many hospices in the United States,” said Kathy Fernandez, RN, BSN, MHA, President and Chief Executive Officer at Chapters Health System. “We are excited to be part of this model and thrilled that the model aligns with what we have already provided our patients for many years through our open access of care model.”

In March 2014, CMS launched an initiative to develop innovative payment systems to improve care options for patients by allowing greater access to the support of an interdisciplinary team and curative treatments. The Medicare Care Choices Model was created in order to test improvements to Medicare patients’ quality of life while they are receiving both curative and palliative care. This model empowers clinicians and patients with choices.

“Every Medicare Care Choices patient will receive a detailed plan of care with patient-centered goals,” explained Fernandez. “One of the program objectives is for patients to access traditional hospice services earlier than they would have without Medicare Care Choices in place.”

With a phased approach to launch, the 141 hospices that were chosen to participate were randomly divided into two groups. Phase 1 hospices are scheduled to begin delivering services under the model on January 1, 2016, and Phase 2 hospices will start on January 1, 2018. A Phase 2 demonstration site will have its 2016-2017 data used as a baseline for the project.

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*Page 2 LifePath Hospice Named Demonstration Site Press Release*

“Participation by LifePath Hospice as a Phase 2 demonstration site allows our organization to assist with an initiative that represents a fundamental shift in the way healthcare is delivered,” added Fernandez.

For more information, visit: <http://innovation.cms.gov/initiatives/Medicare-Care-Choices/>

***About LifePath Hospice***

LifePath Hospice, an affiliate of Chapters Health System, is a community-based, not-for-profit organization that supports more than 1,500 patients each day in Hillsborough County as they face the challenges of advancing age and illness. Since 1990, the organization has been accredited by the Joint Commission, the nation’s premier healthcare accrediting body. In addition, LifePath Hospice first received accreditation from the National Institute for Jewish Hospice in 2007, which means that the staff has undergone specialized training to better serve the needs of patients and their families across the entire range of faith traditions and observance within the Jewish religion. To learn more, visit [www.chaptershealth.org](http://www.chaptershealth.org), like us on [Facebook](#) or follow us on [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

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