



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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GILCHRIST HOSPICE CARE 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

HUNT VALLEY, MD – Gilchrist Hospice Care, the largest hospice organization in the State of Maryland, has been selected to participate in the Medicare Care Choices Model, announced this month 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, while continuing to receive curative services at the same time. This month'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 at 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 and HIV/AIDS who are eligible to receive services from participating hospices to experience this new option and flexibility.

Under the model, participating hospices will provide services that are currently available under the Medicare hospice benefit for routine home care and respite levels of care (nursing, social work, chaplain, volunteers), 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 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. Gilchrist Hospice Care will be participating in the first phase.

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

- They must be diagnosed with certain terminal illnesses (e.g., advanced cancers, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, congestive heart failure and HIV/AIDS);

- They must meet hospice eligibility requirements under the Medicare or Medicaid Hospice Benefit;
- They 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;
- They must receive services from a hospice that is participating in the model; and
- They must have satisfied the model's other eligibility criteria.

More information about this week's announcement is available at:

<http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2015pres/2015.html>.

For additional information on the model or a list of participating hospices, please 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>.

Gilchrist Hospice Care, a non-profit hospice, provides the finest care through the end of life for patients in Baltimore City and in Baltimore, Carroll, Harford and Howard counties. Since 1994, Gilchrist has provided care and services to more than 40,000 terminally ill individuals in the region and bereavement support for thousands more loved ones and the community at-large. Gilchrist Hospice Care is certified by Medicare, licensed by the State of Maryland, accredited by The Joint Commission and a member of the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization.

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