



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**Yakima Memorial Hospice 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*

Yakima, WA – Yakima Memorial Hospice 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. The 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, and 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. Memorial will begin delivering these services will begin starting January 1, 2016.

HHS announced the project participants Monday.

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 Memorial Family of Services**

Memorial Family of Services is the largest employer in Central Washington's Yakima County, with some 2,500 employees who share the organization's core purpose: to inspire people to thrive. Memorial Family of Services includes Yakima Valley Memorial Hospital – a 226-bed, acute-care, nonprofit community hospital – as well as primary care practices and specialty care services, including high-quality cardiac care, a continuum of cancer care, nationally-recognized home health and hospice care, and advanced services for children with special health care needs. Visit Memorial online at [yakimamemorial.org](http://yakimamemorial.org) or on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/yakimavalleymemorialhospital](https://www.facebook.com/yakimavalleymemorialhospital)), Twitter ([www.twitter.com/Yakima\\_Memorial](https://www.twitter.com/Yakima_Memorial)) or Pinterest ([www.pinterest.com/yvmh](https://www.pinterest.com/yvmh)).

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