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Who We Are

The National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization (NHPCO) is the largest membership organization representing hospice and palliative care programs and professionals in the United States. We represent over 3,800 hospice programs that care for the vast majority of hospice patients in the US. NHPCO is committed to improving end-of-life care and expanding access to hospice so that individuals and families facing serious illness, death, and grief will experience the best care that humankind can offer.

HOSPICE PATIENTS AND DELIVERY OF CARE

What is hospice care?

Considered the model for quality care for people facing a life-limiting illness, hospice provides expert medical care, pain management, and emotional and spiritual support individually tailored to the patient's needs and wishes. Under hospice, support is provided to the patient's loved ones as well.

Hospice focuses on caring, not curing. An interdisciplinary team of professionals is responsible for the care of each hospice patient (Figure 1).

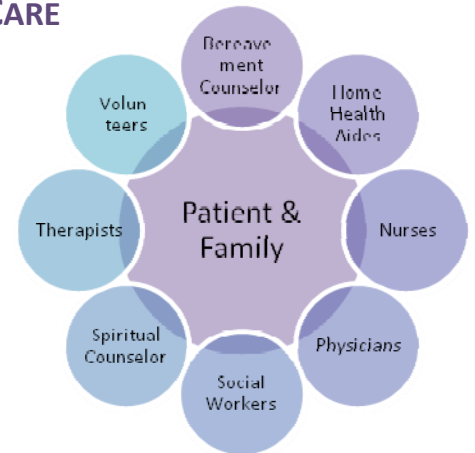


Figure 1. Interdisciplinary Team

Who receives hospice care?

In 2009, an estimated **1.56 million patients received services from hospice**. NHPCO estimates that 41.6% of all deaths in the U.S. were under the care of a hospice program (Figure 2).

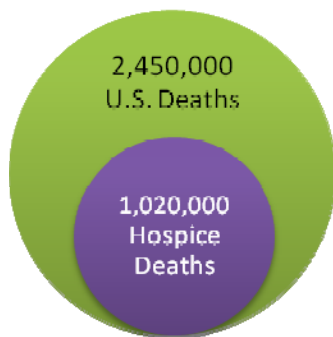


Figure 2. Hospice Utilization in the U.S.

Locations of Care

Patients may receive care at their place of residence, a hospice inpatient facility or an acute care hospital. **69% of patients choose hospice care at home** (Table 1).

Location of Death	% of Hospice Patients
Patient's Place of Residence	68.6%
Private Residence	40.1%
Nursing Home	18.9%
Residential Facility	9.6%
Hospice Inpatient Facility	21.2%
Acute Care Hospital	10.1%

Table 1. Location of Death

Levels of Care

Because patients require differing intensities of care during the course of their disease, **the Medicare Hospice Benefit affords patients four levels of care to meet their needs: Routine Home Care, Continuous Home Care, Inpatient Respite Care, and General Inpatient Care.**

96% of hospice care is provided at the routine home care level which is reimbursed at approximately \$147 per day (Figure 3).

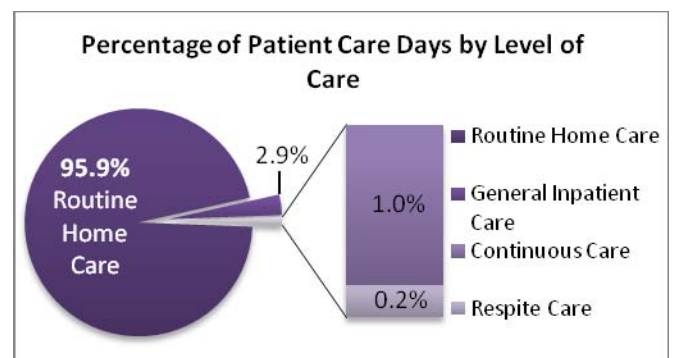


Figure 3. Percentage of Care by Level of Care