Hospice article 2

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**CMS update: Hospice Compare as part of the patient centered care initiative:**

I am excited to announce CMS’s latest update in hospice is finally here! CMS is continuing their ongoing initiative with the accountable care act with their latest update. For those of you who may not know what the Accountable Care Act is; this was a national initiative in the centers for Medicare and Medicaid. Nearly 10 years ago CMS recognized that there were some changes that needed to be made in order to cut overall healthcare spending while still providing better quality of care and outcomes. This initiative focuses on accountability to providers as well as education to the consumers and increased medical follow up. In order to get health care providers buy in, CMS gives penalties when providers do not cut costs and reduce hospitalizations but also incentivizes when they do.

CMS then took poles from its consumers to see how else they could improve upon their quality of care. Consumers asked for better education on the choices of their healthcare providers. More often than not when Someone gets sick they get referred homecare, hospice or even post-acute care facilities. Unfortunately, since families are forced to make a decision rather quickly in a crisis situation they do not have time to research the healthcare providers before making an informed choice. Thus, they are at the whim of whatever the provider recommends. Often the homecare and hospice company may be affiliated with the hospital. Patients and families are told that for “continuity of care” it is to their benefit to go with the hospital’s provider. However, how is this really “continuity of care” as they call it? The medical records will be sent to any follow-up care provider that the patient chooses. And the staff will be different than the hospital in either scenario. The follow-up care can even give updates to your primary care physician. What the hospital is really telling you, is that this is their preferred provider. Usually because it’s the easiest one to refer to or, because they get the shared profits from using their own home care or hospice. Do not be fooled by this, because what might be the beneficial a choice for your physician or hospital provider may not be the right fit for you.

This is why CMS has created their latest initiative “patient centered care”. While still looking at quality outcomes and hopefully cutting costs, the latest focus is on giving patients the choice of their providers for follow-up care when needed. Home health and Post-acute cares have had a compare website for quite some time based on their star rating and quality outcomes. The question was, how do we do something similar for hospice? How can we rate quality outcomes on patients who are not expected to get better? And the answer was to make surveys for their families and get the input from their individual experience. Thanks to the input of patients and their families you can now view Hospice compare right online! If you or a loved one is in need of follow-up care whether it’s the hospital or your primary care physician take the time to go online and shop around. View their customer ratings and quality outcomes. Please follow the link below for more information.

<https://www.medicare.gov/hospiceCompare/>

<https://www.cms.gov/Newsroom/MediaReleaseDatabase/Press-releases/2018-Press-releases-items/2018-04-23.html>