



Chicago area healthcare provider selected to participate in Medicare model ***Model to expand options for area patients with serious illness***

Patients facing serious or life-limiting illnesses will now have the option of receiving comfort and symptom relief through hospice care while also seeking curative treatments through a new model announced by Health and Human Services Secretary Sylvia Burrell.

JourneyCare, a Chicago area provider of comprehensive palliative medicine and hospice care, is one of 141 organizations in the nation selected to participate in the Medicare Care Choices Model (MCCM) by the Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). The model will provide qualifying Medicare beneficiaries expanded options of care. Under current Medicare guidelines, patients cannot receive both hospice care and curative treatments concurrently.

“So often patients and families suffer needlessly with advanced symptoms and related side effects during medical treatments when the comprehensive, whole-person support available through hospice care would offer them relief, comfort and care management where they live,” said Sarah Bealles, JourneyCare president and CEO.

JourneyCare is one of three hospices in the state of Illinois chosen to participate and the only one serving the Chicagoland area. “We are excited to be chosen to participate in the Medicare Care Choices Model because we know this initiative will truly empower our patients and families, along with their doctors, with more choices while also expanding access to palliative and supportive care,” Bealles added.

As many as 150,000 eligible Medicare beneficiaries with advanced cancers, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and congestive heart failure who receive services from participating hospices can now experience this new option and flexibility. These diseases present very practical and emotional challenges that go beyond medical treatment, and hospice services are beneficial for recovery and symptom management.

The announcement is part of a larger effort at Health and Human Services (HHS) to transform our health care system to deliver better care, spend dollars in a smarter way and put patients at the center of care.

JourneyCare is the new combined organization of Horizon Hospice & Palliative Care, JourneyCare, and Midwest Palliative & Hospice CareCenter. The three organizations came together in 2015 to provide greater services to more patients and families across 10 counties in the Chicago area and northern Illinois. For more information, go to www.journeycare.org