



# HOSPICE FACT SHEET

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**Effective:** May 1, 2009

## **Hospice Care**

Hospice is a concept of care designed to provide comfort and support to patients and their families when a life-limiting illness no longer responds to cure-oriented treatments.

## **Eligibility/OHI**

- All TRICARE beneficiaries are eligible.
- Medicare patients do not need an authorization for hospice services.
- The hospice will bill the other health insurance (OHI), before billing TRICARE.

## **Initiating Hospice Care**

- Anyone can make a referral to hospice, including the patient, a family member or the patient's Primary Care Manager (PCM).
- Once the decision is made that the time for hospice care is right for the beneficiary, the beneficiary, a family member or PCM can call the selected hospice provider.

## **Hospice Authorizations**

- **Initial evaluation:** No authorization is needed; the hospice will schedule this.
- **Authorization:** TriWest requires an authorization for hospice once services are initiated. The hospice will submit the necessary paper work for the authorization.

## **Coverage**

Hospice care is provided in three benefit periods, called election periods. Each election period requires a separate authorization.

1. First 90-day period
2. Second 90-day period
3. Unlimited number of 60-day election periods

## **Revocation or Ending Hospice Care**

The patient may choose to revoke or end hospice services at any time. Basic TRICARE coverage will be in effect following the revocation.

## **Transfer to Another Hospice**

The patient may choose to transfer to another hospice once during each election period. The hospice must submit the signed and dated transfer form to TriWest.

## **Exclusions**

- Room and board is not a covered hospice benefit when a patient is in a facility such as a rest home and the care is custodial.
- Patients cannot receive other TRICARE benefits or services related to the terminal diagnosis unless hospice care has been formally revoked. No care for the terminal illness is covered by TRICARE unless the hospice provides for it or arranges it.

## **Questions?**

Refer to the [TRICARE Hospice Care flyer](#) in the Beneficiary Services section of [www.triwest.com](http://www.triwest.com), or call 1-888-TRIWEST (874-9378).