



ADVANCING HOME CARE THROUGH RESEARCH

NEW ATI REPORT CONFIRMS EARLIER HOSPICE ELECTION IMPROVES PATIENT SATISFACTION, REDUCES HOSPITALIZATIONS & SAVES MEDICARE MONEY

A new analysis commissioned by the Research Institute for Home Care confirms that when patients decide to enroll in hospice care sooner, they experience improved symptom management, fewer hospitalizations, higher satisfaction, and personalized care at the end of life.

The report, which was conducted by ATI Advisory, found that Medicare could save between \$1.19 billion and \$1.5 billion per year if terminally ill Medicare beneficiaries enrolled in hospice just 5 days earlier.¹

This new data adds to existing research that a modest change in the timing of electing hospice could unlock substantial Medicare savings – while improving the patient care experience and family satisfaction.



► WHY THIS MATTERS

Hospice care plays a critical role in improving end-of-life care by increasing patient and caregiver satisfaction while reducing unnecessary hospital stays and ICU deaths. At its core, the hospice model is person-centered—designed to honor each individual’s needs, wishes, and priorities, from expert symptom management to emotional and spiritual support.

More Eligible Medicare Beneficiaries are Receiving Hospice Care

- **1.91 million:** Medicare beneficiaries who were enrolled in hospice for one day or more in 2024.²
- **53% of all Medicare decedents in 2024** received hospice care and were enrolled at the time of death.⁴
- **4.4%:** Increase in enrollment from 2023 to 2024, reflecting stabilized access following the COVID-19 pandemic.²

Hospice provides significant value to the Medicare program.

- **\$3.7 billion:** Savings for total cost of care for Medicare beneficiaries who used hospice versus beneficiaries who did not use hospice.³
- **15 days:** Days in hospice at end of life that result in consistently lower costs.³
- **21 days:** Median length of stay for a Medicare decedent enrolled in hospice in 2024.⁴

Patient and family access to hospice care improves outcomes and strengthens the Medicare program.

1. Early Hospice Election Report, ATI Advisory and Research Institute for Home Care
2. Facts and Figures: 2025 Edition, National Alliance for Care at Home
3. Value of Hospice, NORC at the University of Chicago
4. 2025 Hospice Chartbook, Research Institute for Home Care and KNG Health