

# Anna's HOSPICE JOURNEY

With the assistance of the IDT, **Anna** is able to attend her grandson's wedding.

**Anna** is able to remain on insulin to keep her diabetes stable.

**DID YOU KNOW?** PATIENT'S CHRONIC MEDICAL NEEDS ARE STILL MET, TO MAINTAIN A HIGH QUALITY OF LIFE.

As **Anna's** condition continues to decline, the hospice IDT helps Anna's family prepare for her death, according to her wishes and the plan of care.

**DID YOU KNOW?** HOSPICE CARE IS ASSOCIATED WITH BETTER QUALITY OF LIFE AND GREATER PATIENT SATISFACTION COMPARED TO MORE AGGRESSIVE END-OF-LIFE CARE.<sup>1</sup>

**Anna's** health begins to deteriorate, causing her family emotional distress. The hospice social worker and chaplain are able to counsel and comfort them.

One night, **Anna** falls in her home. Anna calls the hospice, and a hospice nurse quickly arrives to examine Anna, avoiding an unnecessary trip to the hospital.

**DID YOU KNOW?** MEDICARE SPENDING FOR THOSE WHO RECEIVE HOSPICE CARE IS LESS THAN IT WOULD BE FOR THOSE SAME PATIENTS, HAD THEY NOT ENROLLED IN HOSPICE.<sup>1</sup>

A hospice volunteer visits **Anna's** home once a week. Anna's family appreciates the support and companionship Anna receives.

**DID YOU KNOW?** HOSPICE IS UNIQUE IN THAT IT IS THE ONLY PROVIDER WITH A MEDICARE CONDITIONS OF PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENT FOR VOLUNTEERS TO PROVIDE SUPPORT.<sup>2</sup>

While initially skeptical about hospice, **Anna** learns she can stay at home, be supported by a care team, and maintain a high quality of life.

**DID YOU KNOW?** HOSPICE CARE IS PROVIDED WHEREVER THE PATIENT LIVES.

**Anna** elects the Medicare Hospice Benefit, and members of her interdisciplinary team (IDT) visit Anna regularly in accordance with her care plan. The IDT includes a physician, nurse, social worker, chaplain, hospice aide, and volunteers.

**DID YOU KNOW?** HOSPICE STAFF IS ON CALL 24 HOURS A DAY, 7 DAYS A WEEK

**Anna** dies peacefully in her home, surrounded by her family, just like she wanted. She spent 68 days under hospice care.

**DID YOU KNOW?** HOSPICE CARE IS ASSOCIATED WITH REDUCED PROLONGED GRIEF FOR FAMILY AND CAREGIVERS.<sup>1</sup>

Finish

**Anna's** family continues to receive bereavement care from the hospice for one year after Anna's death.

**DID YOU KNOW?** HOSPICES PROVIDE SURVIVING FAMILIES GRIEF SUPPORT FOR AT LEAST ONE YEAR.

Start

**Anna**, 78 and suffering from heart failure and diabetes, has been given a prognosis of 5 months to live.

**DID YOU KNOW?** A PATIENT IS ELIGIBLE FOR HOSPICE IF 2 PHYSICIANS DETERMINE THAT THE PATIENT HAS A PROGNOSIS OF 6 MONTHS OR LESS TO LIVE.

 **HAN**  
Hospice Action  
Network

 **NHPCO**  
National Hospice and Palliative  
Care Organization

<sup>1</sup> NORC AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO. VALUE OF HOSPICE IN MEDICARE. MARCH 2023. ACCESS: [WWW.NHPCO.ORG/WP-CONTENT/UPLOADS/VALUE\\_HOSPICE\\_IN\\_MEDICARE.PDF](http://WWW.NHPCO.ORG/WP-CONTENT/UPLOADS/VALUE_HOSPICE_IN_MEDICARE.PDF).  
<sup>2</sup> CARINGINFO. NHPCO. VOLUNTEERING WITH HOSPICE AND ITS BENEFITS. ACCESS: [WWW.CARINGINFO.ORG/TYPES-OF-CARE/HOSPICE-CARE/VOLUNTEERING-WITH-HOSPICE/](http://WWW.CARINGINFO.ORG/TYPES-OF-CARE/HOSPICE-CARE/VOLUNTEERING-WITH-HOSPICE/)