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NEWS RELEASE

Hospice Compare Website: Pennsylvania Hospices Better Than National Average

August 23, 2017 — According to a new website released last week by the federal government, Pennsylvania hospices rank higher than the national average when it comes to quality of care. The new Hospice Compare website was designed to give families the tools they need to research and choose a hospice agency to care for their loved one at the end of life.

Searching for hospices is now easier than ever using this website. Families are able to search for all Medicare-approved hospice providers that serve their city or zip code, and then find agencies and compare their quality with other local agencies. Hospices are rated on seven measures: treatment preferences, values addressed, pain screening, pain assessment, shortness of breath screening and treatment, and opioid treatment.

Pennsylvania's overall average score for hospices is 93.8% while the national average score is 92.6%. Specifically, Pennsylvania's score in asking patients about their treatment preference, like hospitalization and resuscitation, is 99.1%, while the national score is 98.3%. For the measure on asking patients or caregivers about their beliefs and values, Pennsylvania scored 96% and the national score is only 93.6%.

Patricia O'Brien, Senior Vice President, Holy Redeemer Home Care & Hospice, said she is very pleased with how the great care her agency provides is reflected in the scores. "Being told that a family member is in need of hospice is a life changing moment. Having the information available on the CMS site provides another layer of information to help guide very stressed families through a difficult process," she said. O'Brien said she encourages families to call several providers to see how their calls are answered and if the feeling they get isn't positive, move on.

Holy Redeemer Home Care & Hospice scored better than the national average in every category, including patients or caregivers who were asked about treatment preferences like hospitalization and resuscitation at the beginning of hospice care and patients who got a timely and thorough pain assessment when pain was identified as a problem.

There are 191 hospices in Pennsylvania licensed by the Department of Health. [Click here](#) to use PHA's Provider Directory to search for a hospice near you.

[Click here](#) to visit the Hospice Compare website.

About PHA... The Pennsylvania Homecare Association is a statewide organization of more than 700 homecare, home health and hospice providers. PHA members provide quality care and serve as advocates for their patients and clients on a variety of healthcare related issues. PHA and its members work hard to improve professional standards and ensure access to quality homecare throughout the Commonwealth. To learn more, visit www.pahomecare.org.

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