



Frequently Asked Questions

➤ What is Care Choices?

- Care Choices is a demonstration project, or clinical trial, through the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).
- Care Choices is a model of care that provides hospice-like supportive services to people with Medicare insurance that have specific diagnoses, and who are still receiving curative care and treatments.

➤ What are the differences between Care Choices and hospice care?

- Hospice care is a specialized type of care aimed at comfort and improving quality of life for a seriously ill person. It is provided to any person that is medically eligible, when curative treatment has been exhausted and the life prognosis is six months or less.
- Care Choices services are provided to people with Medicare insurance that meet certain eligibility criteria. They would receive the same supportive services as hospice care, as well as assistance with care coordination and identifying goals and wishes. Care Choices is aimed at offering supportive services to people who have a serious illness, but are still receiving curative care and treatments.

➤ What are the eligibility criteria to receive Care Choices services?

- Potential patients must be living with one of the following illnesses: advanced cancer, congestive heart failure (CHF), chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), or HIV/AIDS.
- Potential patients must have traditional Medicare Parts A and B, with Part A as primary coverage for the last 12 months.
- Potential patients must be living in a traditional home (not a nursing home or assisted living facility), have had at least one encounter at a hospital (an ER visit, stay for observation, or inpatient admission) in the last 12 months, and at least three office visits with any type of healthcare provider in the last 12 months.

➤ Do I get to keep my doctor, and keep receiving treatment?

- Yes! A patient is encouraged to keep seeing their primary care provider and/or their specialist care provider, and continue to receive treatments, if that is their goal.

➤ What are the benefits of the model, or how can it help meet my needs?

- Care Choices allows you the time to continue to receive curative treatments, or more time to decide about your goals or hospice care.
- Care Choices provides support in your home, helps coordinate with all your care providers, assists with symptom management, and provides 24/7 access to assistance from a nurse if you need it.