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Cc: [Kris Elliott](#); [Grant Baetsen](#); [Rachael Smart](#)
Subject: ACO REACH End-of-Life Care Report
Date: Tuesday, November 14, 2023 10:02:25 AM
Attachments: [The Impact of Palliative Care on Hospice Utilization.pdf](#)
[NSPC-Referral-Card-Most up to date.pdf](#)
[Palliative Care-Fax-form-Hospice of Michigan \(002\).pdf](#)

The following report has been uploaded to the Sharefile folder for your practice:

- *[Practice Name]* **Days at Home (2023-11)**

This report is specific to the ACO REACH (Medicare FFS) population and lists the number of days spent at home, in the last six months of life, for ACO REACH patients whose date of death occurred between 10/1/2022 and 9/30/2023. Data was derived from Medicare claims processed as of 9/30/2023.

As patients are encouraged to plan ahead for end of life, discussing with family and completing Advance Care Plans, a metric is available that shows where the patient spent his/her last 6 months of life. This report shows the detail of how many days the patient spent as a hospital inpatient, in the Emergency Department, in a Skilled Nursing Facility, under Observation, and/or in Hospice. These days are subtracted from 6 months, showing the remaining days as being spent at home. You, the provider, know whether this last six months was spent as the patient desired.

At the top of the report, we have also provided averages and maximums for each category of type of days; these are based on all ACO REACH patients included in this report period.

As a reminder, NorthStar Palliative Care is available to provide palliative care services to eligible patients in need in the Traverse City Service Area. The goal of palliative care is to help patients with limited life expectancy manage symptoms better, reducing the need to go to the Emergency Department during the end stage of life by providing supportive care. This care is provided in the patient's home; NorthStar Palliative Care providers will go to the patient's home. Provision of palliative care services has been shown to lead to better hospice utilization.

Please find, attached to this email, a document entitled "The Impact of Palliative Care on Hospice Utilization", a copy of NorthStar Palliative Care's referral card and their palliative care referral Fax form. **Dr. Thomas O'Neil, MD (734-255-1138 or toneil@arborhospice.org)**, the Director of Medical Affairs for NorthStar Palliative Care, Arbor Hospice, and Hospice of Michigan, is always happy to meet in person (or virtually) to answer questions about palliative care. If your providers and/or practice staff are interested in learning more about the services NorthStar Palliative Care provides, the benefits of these services to the patient, and/or the differences between palliative care and hospice, please contact Dr. O'Neil or **Jenn Simmer (231-920-4980 or jsimmer@hom.org)**, the Statewide Director of Market Operations for NorthStar Palliative Care and Hospice of Michigan, to schedule a meeting.

NPO is sharing the "Days at Home" data as an informational report, so that providers can see the summary of each patient's last few months. We hope this information succeeds in emphasizing the need for, and encouraging the use of, advance care planning with your patients.

We hope you find this information useful. Please contact us with any questions.

Thank you!

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