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**PALLIATIVE CARE PILOT SHOWS SAVINGS \$3 IN HOSPITAL COSTS FOR EVERY DOLLAR SPENT**

As runaway costs end-of-life hospitalization costs continue to increase and with 28% of the Medicare budget (\$170 billion) currently spent on care in the last six months of life,\* healthcare organizations are looking to stem the rising costs in new and innovative ways. In September 2015, *Partnership Healthplan of California* (PHC) initiated a pilot study to assess the impact of providing Palliative Care (PC) to patients with serious illness and a six-month or less life expectancy. This patient population, under usual circumstances, would avail of multiple hospital services. The pilot, called *Partners in Palliative Care* (PIPC) sought to confirm the “Triple Aim” of PC in improving the patient experience (including quality and satisfaction), improving health outcomes, and reducing costs. Preliminary results from the pilot amply satisfy all three.

Napa-based Collabria Care was selected as one of four sites for the pilot due to our extensive experience in offering PC through our Transitions program, established in Napa County in 2011.

PIPC focused on the patient and family-centered care by anticipating, preventing, and treating suffering during end-of-life care. Preliminary results are impressive: for every dollar spent to administer PIPC, three dollars were saved in hospital costs. From enrollment to death, 55% of those participating in the pilot avoided hospitalizations, compared to 21% of matched comparison beneficiaries. Only 35% of pilot participants died within 30 days of a hospital admission versus more than 70% of comparison beneficiaries.

The very significant cost savings have enormous implications for end-of-life hospital costs when PC is rolled out across the state in response to SB 1004, expected in 2018. Data from the pilot will be used to inform SB 1004 conditions, costs, and regulations.

Even though the pilot has concluded, the benefits are such that Collabria Care continues to provide PC to PHC patients with cancer, end-stage liver disease, congestive heart failure, and chronic obstructive disease.

*\*Kaiser Health News*

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## **About Collabria Care**

*Collabria Care – Collabria Hospice (formerly Napa Valley Hospice & Adult Day Services), is the leading center for community-based care delivery and resources in the North Bay, for those facing the transitions of aging, Alzheimer’s disease and other serious illness, or the end of life. Collabria Care hosts the annual “Advances in Palliative Care” conference each Fall. For more information, visit <http://collabriacare.org> or call (707) 258-9080.*

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