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PRESS RELEASE

Cedar Valley Hospice selected by Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services to test Medicare Dementia Care Model

Waterloo, July 9, 2024: Cedar Valley Hospice has been selected by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to participate in a new Medicare alternative payment model designed to support people living with dementia and their caregivers. Under CMS' [Guiding an Improved Dementia Experience \(GUIDE\) Model](#), Cedar Valley Hospice will be one of almost 400 participants building Dementia Care Programs (DCPs) across the country, working to increase care coordination and improve access to services and supports, including respite care, for people living with dementia and their caregivers.

Cedar Valley Hospice will begin accepting people living with dementia into the GUIDE Model beginning July 1, 2025. CMS Administrator Chiquita Brooks-LaSure said she is excited to partner with Cedar Valley Hospice. "GUIDE is a new approach to how Medicare will pay for the care of people living with dementia. The GUIDE participants are envisioning new ways to support not only people living with dementia, but also to reduce strain on the people who care for them, so that more Americans can remain in their homes and communities, rather than in institutions."

Launched on July 1, 2024, the GUIDE Model will test a new payment approach for key supportive services furnished to people living with dementia, including: comprehensive, person-centered assessments and care plans; care coordination; 24/7 access to an interdisciplinary care team member or help line; and certain respite services to support caregivers. People with dementia and their caregivers will have the assistance and support of a Care Navigator to help them access clinical and non-clinical services such as meals and transportation through community-based organizations.

"Cedar Valley Hospice is so excited to be selected as a participant in the CMS GUIDE model and bring this important and valuable service to persons in our community living with dementia, along with their caregivers. We have been assigned the new program track of the GUIDE Model and will begin services on July 1, 2025," said Cedar Valley Hospice Executive Director Michaela Vandersee.

Cedar Valley Hospice's participation in the GUIDE Model will help people living with dementia and their caregivers have access to education and support, such as training programs on best practices for caring for a loved one living with dementia. The GUIDE Model also provides respite services for certain people, enabling caregivers to take temporary breaks from their caregiving responsibilities. Respite is being tested under the GUIDE Model to assess its effect on helping caregivers continue to care for their loved ones at home, preventing or delaying the need for facility care.

GUIDE Participants represent a wide range of health care providers, including large academic medical centers, small group practices, community-based organizations, health systems, hospice agencies, and other practices.

This model delivers on a promise in the Biden Administration's Executive Order on Increasing Access to High-Quality Care and Supporting Caregivers and aligns with the National Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease. For more information on CMS' GUIDE Model, please visit:

<https://www.cms.gov/priorities/innovation/innovation-models/guide>.

For more information about Cedar Valley Hospice, call 319.272.2002, 800.626.2360 or visit cvhospice.org.

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Established in 1979, Cedar Valley Hospice is the expert provider of hospice care in Northeast Iowa. As a non-profit, we uphold the highest standards for our employees who help families manage advanced illnesses and symptoms 24 hours a day. We provide care for all – regardless of age, diagnosis or ability to pay. Other services include: the area's only Hospice Home, palliative care, adult and children's grief programs, and case management for people living with HIV. Anyone can make a referral. It's never too early to call and find out what resources are available to you. For more information, visit cvhospice.org or call 800.626.2360.

IMAGES:

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