

# VA PIHCS Concurrent Care Program

Veterans Administration (VA)  
Pacific Islands Health Care System (PIHCS)

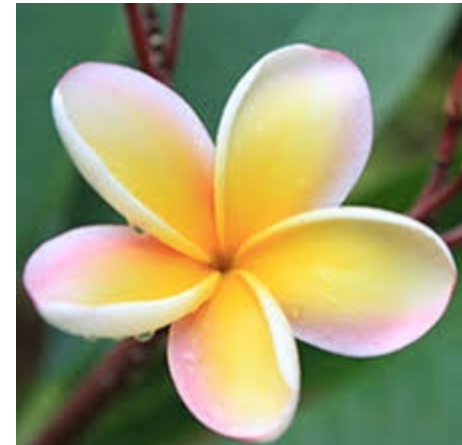
Hospice and Palliative Care

Craig China, M.D.

Liane Tokushige, M.D.

Amanda Wong, APRN

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# Eligibility Criteria for VA PIHCS Concurrent Care

- ▶ Registered, eligible for VA healthcare
- ▶ Hospice diagnosis
- ▶ Life expectancy less than 6 months
  
- ▶ Potential admission diagnoses:
  - ▶ Cancer: stage IV with oncologist designation that hospice appropriate
  - ▶ Heart disease: New York Health Association class IV
  - ▶ Advanced pulmonary disease, liver disease
  - ▶ Other conditions may be approved

# How to get VA PIHCS Concurrent Care?

- ▶ Patient needs to be seen by VA Palliative Care team
- ▶ If patient is eligible for VA Concurrent Care, the HPC team will initiate authorization process and contact community hospice agency.

VA Main (located in Hawaii) 1-800-214-1306 option 2  
VA Hospice and Palliative Care 433-7676

# VA PIHCS Concurrent Care Program

	<b>“Mainland way”</b>	<b>VA PIHCS Concurrent Care</b>
Comfort Treatments and home support	Medicare pays	VA pays
Disease Treatments	VA pays	Medicare or private insurance pays

\*\* If patient doesn't have other insurance then VA pays for both

	<b>Hospice Care</b>	<b>VA PIHCS Concurrent Care</b>
Comfort Treatments	Yes	Yes
Disease Treatments	No	Yes
Okay to go to the hospital	No	Yes

# VA PIHCS Concurrent Care

Diagnosis	Days consult to death	Days on VA CC	ED or hospital days	Site of death	Comments	Cost before CC	Cost of CC	ED/hospital cost on CC	Est. Cost Savings
COPD	71	68	0	Home	High oxygen requirement, 3 mos hospital	450K	15K	0	435K

Assumes 1 hospital day or ER day is \$5K  
Assumes 1 Concurrent Care day is \$160

Average duration on CC is 2 months  
Average est cost savings is 200K

# VA PIHCS Concurrent Care Program Summary

► Patient's wife, husband was on concurrent care for lung disease:

This program was tremendous! My husband wasn't ready for hospice because he felt if he chose hospice it would be like saying "I'm dead." While in the hospital, everyone was trying to convince him to choose traditional hospice. However, this program gave him another option and he was able to go home. It was the best! We were very pleased and he was happy. ***He got to go home and still had hope that he could call the ambulance if needed.*** The hospice nurse was very caring and they lifted his spirits.



# VA and Physician-Assisted Dying

- ▶ VA community care consults cannot be utilized for PAD related actions or activities.

According to Public Law 105-12, the Assisted Suicide Funding Restriction Act of 1997: 38 U.S.C. § 1707(a):