VA PIHCS Concurrent Care Program

Veterans Administration (VA)
Pacific Islands Health Care System (PIHCS)
Hospice and Palliative Care
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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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>“Mainland way”</th>
<th>VA PIHCS Concurrent Care</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Comfort Treatments and home support</td>
<td>Medicare pays</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disease Treatments</td>
<td>VA pays</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hospice Care</th>
<th>VA PIHCS Concurrent Care</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Comfort Treatments</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disease Treatments</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Okay to go to the hospital</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## VA PIHCS Concurrent Care

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

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
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):