HOSPICE USE

METRIC
Use of hospice services at least 3 days prior to death

UTILIZATION: 43%

BACKGROUND
Cancer experts and patient advocates now recognize and promote the need for high quality, coordinated care at the end of life. Inpatient and outpatient based hospice care is designed to give supportive care to patients in the final phase of a terminal illness, focusing on patient comfort and quality of life. Studies have shown that timely referral to hospice at the end of life can improve quality of life and help patients and families avoid unnecessary medical costs.

POPULATION
N = 1628
Inclusion criteria:
- Solid tumor diagnosed January 1, 2007 to May 31, 2014
- Enrolled with at least one claim in the 3 months prior to death
- Age 18-64 at time of death
- Patient died
Exclusion criteria:
- Stage in situ
- Age 65+

DEFINITIONS
- Hospice use: Two different days with a hospice claim starting more than 3 days prior to death
- Time period: Last 90 days of life
- Cause of Death: All

RESULTS

HOSPICE USE BY CLINIC
Clinic variation in use of hospice prior to death ranges from no use at all to use in 67% of patients.

TIMING OF HOSPICE USE
Many patients enroll in hospice with less than two weeks of life remaining.

HOSPICE USE AT AGE OF DEATH
There is little variation in hospice use by age at death.