



## Not-for-Profit Difference in Hospice Care

---

- For-profit hospices spend less on nursing per patient. *Nonprofit hospices typically spent about \$36 a day per patient on nursing visits*; for-profit hospices spent \$30 per day, or 17% gap between for-profits and nonprofits remains whether the hospices are old or new.
- For-profit hospices are less likely to provide more intense levels of care for patients undergoing a crisis in their symptoms. *Nonprofit hospices are much more likely to provide the more intense services — continuous nursing and inpatient care — required by patients whose symptoms are difficult to control. Nonprofits offered about 10 times as much of this per patient per day as did for-profits.*
- For-profit hospices are less likely to have sent a nurse to a patient's home in the last days of life. While hospices of both kinds usually dispatch a nurse to see a patient at some point during the last 2 days of life, **for-profit hospices are more likely to fail in this regard**, according to the analysis. A typical patient at a for-profit hospice is 22% less likely to have been visited by a nurse during this window than a patient at a nonprofit hospice, the numbers show, a sign that for-profit hospices may be less responsive during this critical time.
- For-profit hospices have a higher percentage of patients who drop out of hospice care before dying. **High rates of dropout are often viewed as a sign that patients were pushed out of hospice when their care grew expensive**, left dissatisfied or were enrolled for hospice even though they were not close to death.
- 22% of the for-profits in the sample exceeded the Medicare cap at least once in the previous 5 years. *Only 4% of nonprofits did.* And among the for-profits that exceeded the cap, disenrollment was even higher — 13%.

*Source: Not-for-profit Difference in Hospice Care: Washington Post Coverage  
By: Emily Wilson Published On: Dec. 30, 2014*

Westminster Canterbury at Home  
www.wcathome.com  
(757) 496-1653