

## Eli's Hospice Insider

### Business: Hospices Continue Nationwide Trend Of Opening Inpatient Facilities

#### Will more inpatient availability help with feds' concerns about GIP utilization?

Despite budgetary uncertainty ranging from possible Medicare cuts to wholesale payment reform — not to mention unflattering attention from the mainstream press — hospices continue to open facilities nationwide.

Hospices are often caught between a rock and a hard place when it comes to General Inpatient Care. On one hand, they get criticized for not furnishing the service often enough — something that contractor **Abt Associates** is looking into in its payment reform efforts (see Eli's Hospice Insider, Vol. 8, No. 3). When the Centers for **Medicare & Medicaid Services** examined GIP data last year, it found 20 percent of hospices never billed a single day of GIP in the period reviewed (see Eli's Hospice Insider, Vol. 7, No. 7). The **Medicare Payment Advisory Commission** notes in its latest report to Congress that in 2013, 21 percent of hospices didn't furnish any GIP to patients (see related story, p. cover).

On the other hand, the **HHS Office of Inspector General** has slammed agencies for billing GIP unnecessarily. And in CMS's review, it found 46 hospices that billed 10 percent or more of their days as GIP.

#### Some recent facility projects include:

**In Connecticut:** **Regional Hospice and Home Care** has opened a new inpatient facility in Danbury. The 12-bed unit expects to serve 1,000 patients annually, reports The Ridgefield Press.

Operation of the facility required changes in state law, notes the Hamlethub website.

**In San Diego:** **Sharp HospiceCare** has opened its six-bed **BonitaView Home** facility in Bonita, reports 7 San Diego NBC News. Sharp HospiceCare operates two other hospice residences in the area, in La Mesa and Del Cerro.

**In Dallas:** **The Presbyterian Communities and Services Foundation** says it has reached its \$38.6 million fundraising goal for Phase One construction of **Faith Presbyterian Hospice's T. Boone Pickens Hospice and Palliative Care Center**. The center will serve more than 1,800 patients a year and offer inpatient care, spiritual care, education and resources, and child and family bereavement, the foundation tells the Dallas News.

**In Indiana:** **Hospice of the Wabash Valley** has announced a \$2 million campaign to build a new center at Union Hospital in Terre Haute. The eight-bed in-residence home care will be the first of its kind in Terre Haute. The hospice will build the inpatient unit in an unused wing of the hospital, reports WTHI-TV News. The agency hopes to begin construction in 2015.

**In Missouri:** **BJC HealthCare** plans to build a 32-bed hospice center on the campus of **Barnes-Jewish West County Hospital** in Creve Couer, reports the St. Louis Business Journal. That's double the originally proposed size, notes the St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

**In Oregon:** **Cascade Health Solutions** is planning a 12-bed, 15,000-square-foot hospice house on a 4.8-acre parcel, reports The Register-Guard. The non-profit had hoped to build a hospice house years ago, but neighbors of a seven-acre plot of land protested the usage. The case is still tied up in court.

**In Illinois:** **Hospice of the Rock River Valley** is kicking off a fundraising drive to build a \$3.5 million hospice home on donated land. The hospice hopes to break ground on the six-bed unit this fall and open next year, reports [saukvalley.com](http://saukvalley.com).

