

Eli's Hospice Insider

Hospice News: Chicago Hospices Merge In Squeezed Market

Chicago-based **Horizon Hospice & Palliative Care**, Barrington, Ill.-based **Journey Care** and Glenview, Ill.-based **Midwest Palliative & Hospice Care Center** have agreed to merge. The new organization will employ more than 800 and care for about 2,500 patients a day in Chicago and 10 surrounding counties, reports Crain's Chicago Business newspaper.

Reimbursement pressure is squeezing small hospices. "In the Chicago market alone there are more than 50 hospice providers," said JourneyCare CEO **Sarah Bealles**, who will lead the new company. "You don't have very many health systems and they're all narrowing their networks, so I don't think there is room for as many providers in the long term." A branding consultant will help choose a new name by fall, according to the newspaper.