



Connecting and empowering not-for-profit hospices throughout California

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

California Hospice Network releases statement on CMS hospice oversight efforts

January 31, 2024 – On January 25, 2024, [ProPublica](#) published an article which highlights the continued Medicare certification of new hospices in California, among other states, during 2023—a direct contrast to State Bill 664 which instituted a moratorium on new hospice licensure.

Among other claims, the article purports that reforms designed to limit fraudulent billing practices and market oversaturation are accomplishing little. Centers for Medicare Services (CMS) data from 2023 indicates that California continues to drive much of the growth of newly Medicare-certified hospices in the country.

“This is yet another in a string of deeply disturbing and frustrating accounts of the state of end-of-life care in the Golden State. California Hospice Network (CHN) is disappointed that one hand does not seem to know what the other is doing both locally and nationally as more fly by night hospices have continued to be certified by CMS despite pervasive instances of fraud, waste, and abuse impacting patients in need and well-meaning providers,” says Michael Milward, CEO of CHN.

The continued entry of poor-quality or fraudulent providers negates the intent of important restrictions imposed by the California legislature and those announced by CMS last year—restrictions intended to weed out these ill-advised bad actors in California’s end-of-life care landscape.

“We appreciate that none of this is easy, however, end-of-life patients and their families in California are the ones at risk here,” continues Milward. “We at CHN implore the relevant authorities to finally and fully crack down on bad actors in hospice while reminding providers and patients alike that, across the state, you can confidently choose high quality, compassionate end-of-life care from your local community owned, not-for-profit hospice who has been serving your community for over 40 years. We look forward to continued collaboration with our state and national partners to address these issues.”

About California Hospice Network

California Hospice Network is a strategic partnership committed to sustaining local nonprofit community-based hospice care in California. The Network’s member organizations -- Hospice of the Foothills, Hospice of Santa Cruz County, and YoloCares—are each recognized as trusted leaders in the communities they have served for 45 years. Aligned in their mission and values, Network members are working, sharing, and planning together to create stronger community-based hospices that deliver exceptional patient care and end-of-life services.