

Objectives

1. Describe the CARES program, a program to deliver palliative care to nursing home residents
2. Evaluate outcomes for NH residents
3. Demonstrate feasibility of program implementation and data analysis

Results

Resident Characteristics	N= 170	
Age	75 (SD 15)	MIN 32, MAX 100
African American	77	45%
Female	104	61%
SNF	82	48%
LTC	88	52%
Diagnoses		
Failure to Thrive/Debility	45	26%
Cancer	26	15%
Cardiac	4	2%
Pulmonary	10	6%
Dementia/Neuro	66	39%
Other	18	11%
Chronic Pain	1	0.5%
Palliative Performance Scale	40 (10)	

Program Description

Caring about Residents' Experiences and Symptoms (CARES) Program designed to provide specialty palliative care services to nursing home residents.

The CARES team consists of EVMS palliative medicine physicians and a Sentara Chaplain who partner with Sentara Life Care physicians, nurses, social workers, and staff to provide comprehensive care for residents facing life-limiting medical illness.

Consult Characteristics and Service Outcomes

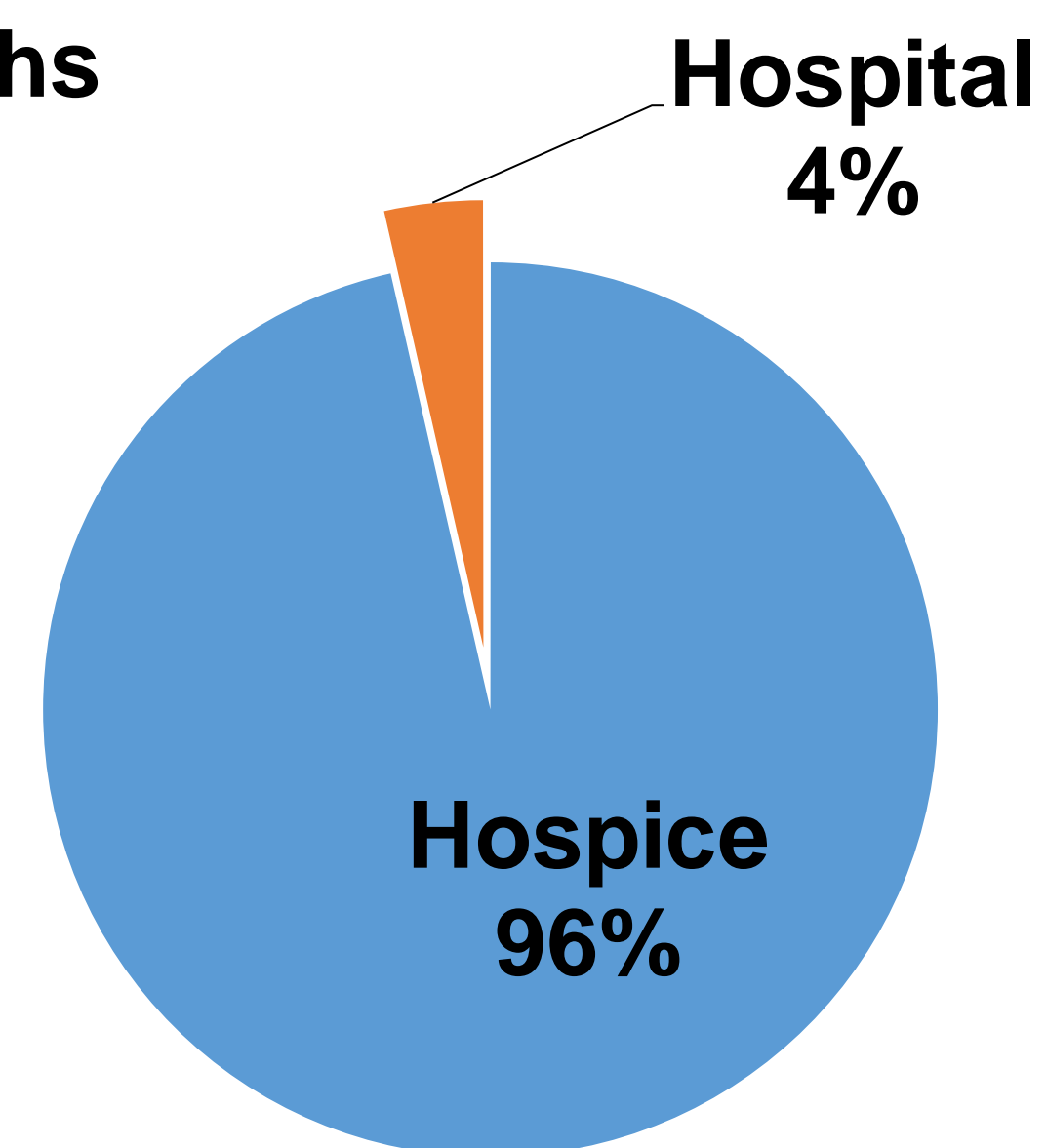
Following consultation:

- 89 residents received orders for medications to address pain
- 74 residents received orders for medications to address non-pain symptoms

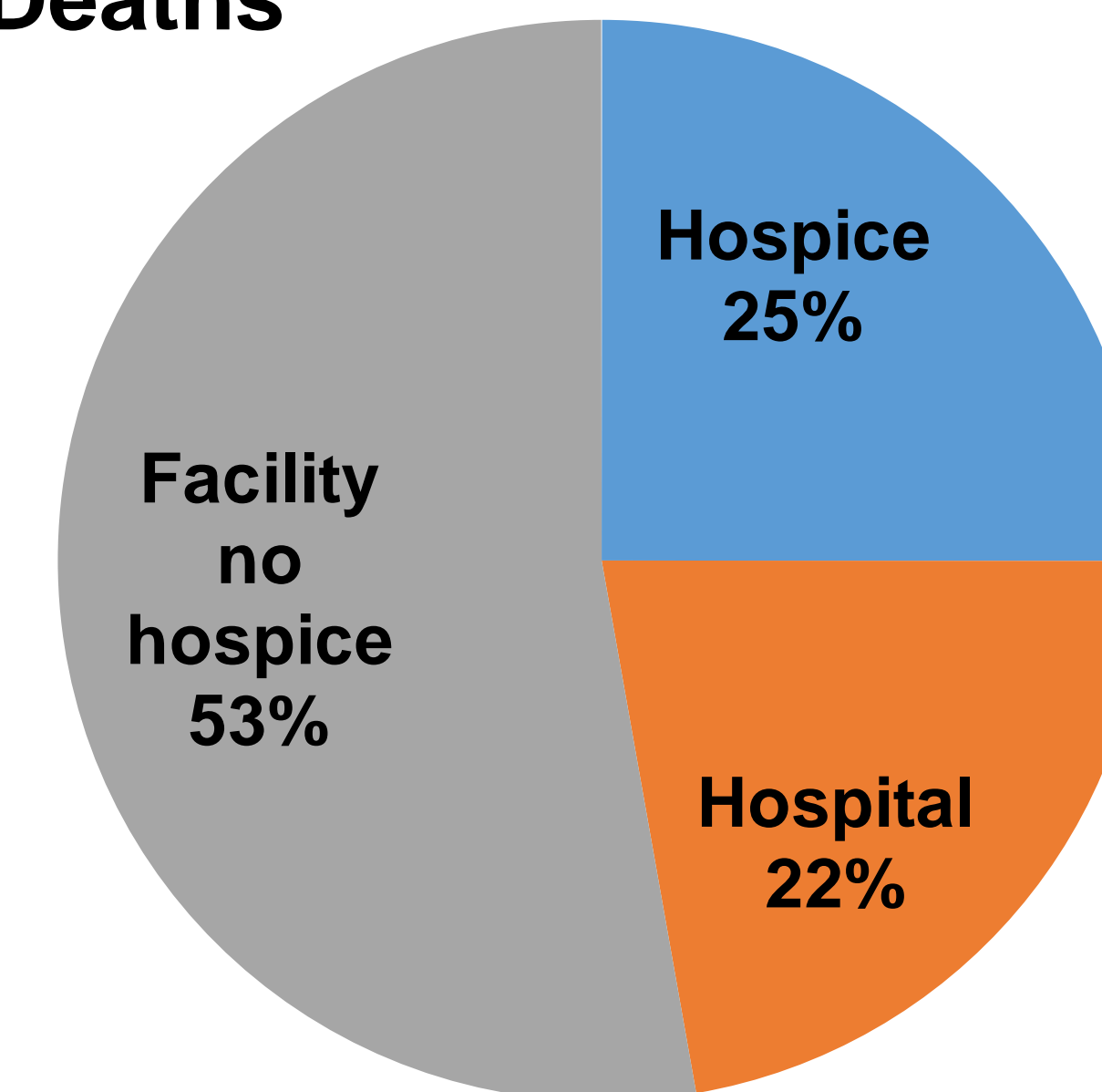
Goals:

- 53 residents elected Do Not Hospitalize Status
- 53 of 79 Full Code residents, elected to completed Durable DNR orders
- 73 residents were referred to hospice.

LTC Deaths



SNF Deaths



- 90% of residents (N=70/78) with palliative goals were never hospitalized.
- 49% of residents (N= 45/92) with life prolonging/curative goals were never hospitalized.

Hospitalizations

Hospitalizations by Primary Diagnosis	#	% Residents hospitalized
Frailty	13	20%
Cancer	2	8%
Cardiac	4	75%
Pulmonary	6	50%
Neuro/ Dementia	17	23%
Other (ESRD)	11	33%

Discussion

- Patients in post acute settings and long term care have Palliative Care needs.
- Resident continue to die under SNF benefit without accessing hospice.
- Addressing Palliative Care needs may change hospitalization rates.
- Need to explore and address unique needs of cardiac, pulmonary and renal patients.

REFERENCES

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