Palliative and hospice care – with a focus on managing and easing symptoms, reducing pain and stress, and increasing comfort – can improve both the quality of care and quality of life for those with advanced dementia.

- Observational studies have shown that as many as half of nursing home residents with advanced dementia have documented pain in the last weeks of life – and about a third have difficulty breathing or swallowing, or suffer from agitation.

- Individuals with advanced dementia who are enrolled in hospice have a lower rate of dying in the hospital, a lower rate of hospitalization in the last 30 days of life, and better symptom management.

- A recent study shows that nursing home residents with dementia who receive palliative care at the end of life, compared with those who do not receive such care, are:
  - up to 15 times less likely to die in a hospital
  - nearly 2.5 times less likely to have a hospitalization in the last 30 days of life
  - up to 4.6 times less likely to have an emergency room visit in the last week of life.

- Families of individuals with dementia who are enrolled in hospice have a greater satisfaction with patient care.

### Percentage of Seniors Receiving Hospice Care at Time of Death, by Condition

- Alzheimer’s and Other Dementias: 48.3%
- COPD: 39.0%
- Cancer: 59.5%

### People with Alzheimer’s and other dementias rely heavily on palliative and hospice care at the end of life.

- Of all people living with dementia, 18.6 percent receive hospice care in a given year – a higher percentage than other chronic conditions. Among seniors in hospice care, one in every five has a primary hospice diagnosis of Alzheimer’s or other dementia.

- In the Veterans Administration health care system, 61.4 percent of dementia patients receive palliative care consultations in the last 90 days of life.

- Nearly half of all people with dementia die in hospice care.