

Palliative care consult can cut hospital costs in seriously ill

May 2 2018



(HealthDay)—For hospitalized adults with serious illness, receiving a

palliative care consultation (PCC) is associated with a reduction in hospital costs, according to a review published online April 30 in *JAMA Internal Medicine*.

Peter May, Ph.D., from Trinity College Dublin, and colleagues conducted a systematic literature review to examine the correlation of a PCC with direct hospital costs among adults with serious [illness](#) (cancer; heart, liver, or [kidney failure](#); chronic [obstructive pulmonary disease](#); AIDS/HIV; or selected [neurodegenerative conditions](#)). Eight eligible studies were identified; six provided sufficient information for inclusion.

The studies included 133,118 patients, of whom 93.2 percent were discharged alive; 3.6 percent received a PCC. The researchers found that among the studies, the mean Elixhauser index scores for comorbidity varied from 2.2 to 3.5. A statistically significant reduction in costs was seen when patients were pooled, irrespective of diagnosis (−\$3,237). In the stratified analyses, a reduction in costs for the cancer and non-cancer subsamples was seen (−\$4,251 and −\$2,105, respectively). Those with four or more comorbidities versus those with two or fewer had a greater reduction in cost.

"Increasing palliative care capacity to meet national guidelines may reduce costs for hospitalized adults with serious and complex illnesses," the authors write.

More information: [Abstract/Full Text](#)

Copyright © 2018 [HealthDay](#). All rights reserved.

Citation: Palliative care consult can cut hospital costs in seriously ill (2018, May 2) retrieved 6 May 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2018-05-palliative-hospital-ill.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.