

# VA Home Based Primary Care

## A Model for Improving Medicare Quality and Cost-Effectiveness

The U.S. Department Veterans Affairs established the Home Based Primary Care (HBPC) program in 1972 to meet the needs of its growing population of chronically ill Veterans. The HBPC program is designed to promote health and independence while reducing costs by delivering a comprehensive array of healthcare services in HBPC participants' homes. Services offered through the HBPC program include chronic disease management, coordination of care by a team of health providers, rehabilitation during recovery from an illness and palliative care.

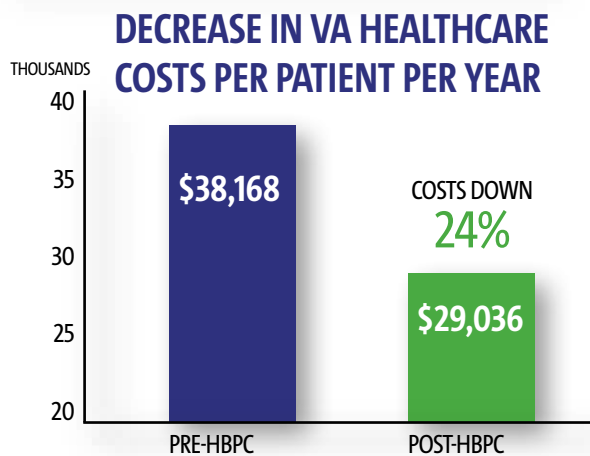
*"A model to emulate for the care of persons with complex, chronic disabling conditions, improving quality without added cost, and maximizing their independence through comprehensive longitudinal interdisciplinary care delivered in their homes."*

— THOMAS EDES, MD, MS, DIRECTOR, GERIATRICS & EXTENDED CARE OFFICE OF CLINICAL OPERATIONS, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

The HBPC has achieved a **62%** reduction in inpatient hospital days and an **88%** reduction in nursing home days, achieving a **24%** REDUCTION IN TOTAL COSTS.

*"No Medicare reform plan I'm aware of contemplates a 24 percent net cost reduction. Through its successful HBPC program, the VA has shown the way."*

— CHAIRMAN BILLY TAUZIN



Source: EDES, Thomas MD, MS. Impact of VA home Based Primary Care: Access, Quality and Cost. July 22, 2011.

### VA HBPC VS. MEDICARE

PROGRAM	PATIENT CHARACTERISTICS	LENGTH OF STAY	CARE MODEL	COSTS
MEDICARE	4.2 medical conditions 8.8 medications 3+ ADLs	65 days	Short-duration care to homebound patients	+29.4% (1998-2005)
VA HBPC	8 medical conditions 12 medications 5 health concerns	315 days	Comprehensive longitudinal care to chronically ill veterans	-24% (post-HBPC)

