Hospice Compare website empowers consumers, rates provider quality

When a family member receives a terminal diagnosis for which there is no cure – what next? Hospice has been the health care choice for many patients choosing end-of-life care, because of its focus on quality of life, family-centered care and range of holistic services. But with the rise in popularity of hospice, the number of hospice providers has increased as well, leaving consumers to wonder how to choose the right provider.

Recently, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services launched the Hospice Compare website, a tool designed to let consumers easily compare up to three hospice organizations at a glance and weigh their ratings against national averages in seven different areas.

Livonia’s own Angela Hospice scored above the national average for all quality measures listed, with ratings ranging from 99.3 to 100 percent. Founded and operated by the Felician Sisters, Angela Hospice has been serving southeast Michigan from its Livonia headquarters since 1985.

“We are so proud of the work our staff is doing for the community each and every day,” said Marti Coplai, executive director of Angela Hospice. “These scores help to show objectively what we’ve always known personally about our amazing team – they are some of the most dedicated, compassionate and caring people. They go above and beyond for our patients and families.”
The Hospice Compare website reports on data such as timeliness of treatment, respect for patient/caregiver beliefs and preferences and thoroughness of pain and symptom assessments. CMS created the website to make health care quality information more transparent and understandable, thereby empowering consumers to take ownership of their health and make informed decisions.

“This is a great tool,” said Margot Parr, Angela Hospice’s president and CEO. “We hope it will encourage more people to explore their care options. Not all hospices are the same, and consumers should choose the provider that best meets their goals and preferences for their healthcare.”

The Hospice Compare site provides introductory information on hospice services and the Medicare hospice benefit as well. It can be accessed at www.medicare.gov/hospicecompare.