



# CHILDREN'S HOSPICE INTERNATIONAL

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## **CHILDREN'S HOSPICE INTERNATIONAL SELECTS NEWEST CHI PACC PROGRAM**

*CHI to provide grant for CHI PACC Demonstration Model in New England*

Alexandria, VA—October 7, 2003—Children's Hospice International (CHI) announced that it has selected the New England region to be the latest recipient of a grant to develop a CHI Program for All-Inclusive Care for Children and Their Families™ (CHI PACC®). This grant allows for the planning and development of a model of coordinated, comprehensive and compassionate care for children with life-threatening conditions and their families in the New England area. CHI recently chose this region through a competitive Request for Proposals (RFP) process in order to allocate Congressional appropriations received by CHI for FY2003.

Ann Armstrong-Dailey, CHI Founding Director and CEO, stated "we are so pleased to be able to award this grant to such an expansive project. The tremendous expertise of health care providers in the New England region and their dedication to caring for children with life-threatening conditions will be invaluable to its development. The extension of the CHI PACC model to New England will substantially further our collective mission of ensuring care and support for all children and their families, from time of diagnosis—with hope for a cure—through bereavement, if cure is not attained."

The Jason Program, led by Executive Director Kate Eastman, PsyD, LCSW and Medical Director Gary Allegretta, MD and located in Saco, Maine, will act as the primary organization in coordinating the three-year New England CHI PACC demonstration model which will ultimately establish a network of interdisciplinary services for children in Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont and eventually Connecticut. Kate Faulkner, MD of Kid Care Consultants, Dover, Massachusetts, will partner with The Jason Program as Project Director of the New England CHI PACC, bringing her years of experience in hospice medicine and pediatric hospice homecare to the development of the program. The grant from CHI will provide funding for year one of the New England CHI PACC demonstration model. "We look forward to expanding community-based care for children with life-threatening conditions and their families in this region," commented Eastman. "It is important for families to have the best curative medical treatment with simultaneous supportive care; and for medical teams to be fairly reimbursed for that care," added Faulkner.

The New England CHI PACC program is presently in the development and planning phase, with the intent to apply for Federal waivers in each of the states to establish a new continuum of care model, by the end of the initial three years. Under current third-party reimbursement and state licensing requirements, a six-month to end-of-life prognosis is typically required to receive hospice care and services. This waiver process will enable patients to receive curative treatment and hospice and palliative care simultaneously—without having to give up hope for a cure. Colorado, Florida, Kentucky, New York, Utah, Virginia and the Department of Defense (DOD) at Walter Reed Army Medical Center (WRAMC) are currently developing CHI PACC model programs.

**Children’s Hospice International**

Children’s Hospice International (CHI<sup>®</sup>) is an Alexandria, VA-based non-profit organization founded in 1983 to promote hospice support through pediatric care facilities providing community-based programs and resources for children with life-threatening conditions and their families. CHI also provides education, training and technical assistance to healthcare professionals who care for this patient population. Information on pediatric palliative and hospice care, as well as an international directory of children’s hospice, palliative and end-of-life programs and organizations can be found at CHI’s website, [www.chionline.org](http://www.chionline.org).

**CHI Program for All-Inclusive Care for Children and Their Families<sup>™</sup> (CHI PACC<sup>®</sup>)**

CHI, through Congressional appropriations and with technical assistance from the federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), developed the CHI Program for All-Inclusive Care for Children and Their Families<sup>™</sup> (CHI PACC<sup>®</sup>) to overcome existing barriers to appropriate care for children with life-threatening conditions, and to allow for a continuum of care from time of diagnosis—with hope for a cure—through bereavement, if cure is not attained.

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