# Hmong Elders’ Awareness and use of Hospice Care: Motivating Factors and Barriers

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## MAJOR FINDINGS

- Twenty-five percent of Hmong Shamanists would consider using hospice care at end of life (EOL), compared to 75% of Hmong Christians.
- Hmong elders have concerns about language, understanding the Hmong culture, food preferences, and a lack of diverse staff when it comes to using hospice.

> “This is something that is important for the Hmong, we still do not know much about this. Because, because we have not really had this experience. But, currently, we believe that this is something good for us because we know that we will die so why do we prevent them from helping us?” (Hmong elder)

### Results, cont.

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**Hmong Shamanist’s Use of Hospice**
- 25% would use hospice
- If they see how hospice can help
- If children cannot provide the care

**Hmong Christians’ Use of Hospice**
- 75% would use hospice
- Having no more options
- Professional care from hospice staff

### Results, cont.

**Facilitators to Hmong using Hospice**
- Having Hmong staff on board and flexibility with the Hmong culture
- Trust building from hospice community
- Further education on hospice care

**Implications**
- Hospice agencies and Hmong health leaders determine cultural needs in provision of hospice care
- Future research needed on ability of hospice providers to honor the more traditional beliefs and rituals

### Limitations
- Small sample size
- Sample not generalizable
- Self-selection likely: traditional Hmong elders tend to believe speaking of EOL is taboo
- Study conducted in one geographic area