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PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION

How a Patient’s Artwork Can Help Us.... By initially bypassing conscious thought, the process of making art can help some patients and families express what they cannot otherwise verbalize or openly acknowledge. In the February issue of NewsLine, long-time art therapist, Barbara Trauger-Querry, MA, ATR-BC, discusses the non-directive art therapy approach that she has found effective in hospice, and takes a closer look at three examples of patient art — and what they reveal. Read the article now. (To download a print-friendly copy to read later or share with staff, go to the end of the article and click the purple “Print This Article” button.)

From Leadership, to Quality Reporting, to Partnerships, MLC... Preconference sessions on March 25 & 26 provide you with the knowledge you need now. Acquire the

- Knowledge You Need to be an Effective Executive Leader:
  - Leadership Matters: Skills, Competencies and Strategies for New Hospice Executives
  - Developing the 3-D Leader
Learn How to Build a Culture of Privacy and Confidentiality & Increase Your Knowledge of Quality Reporting:
  - HIPAA, HITECH, Omnibus OH MY! The New Normal for Hospice and Palliative Care Professionals
  - The Hospice Quality Reporting Program: Preparing To Implement the Hospice Item Set (HIS)

Attain Way to Cultivate Strong Relationships & Develop Compliant Practices with Nursing Facilities:
  - Re-Examining the Hospice – Nursing Home Partnership: Now Is the Time
  - Taking Hospice Care in Nursing Homes to the Next Level

You won't want to miss out on these informative sessions. Join us and register.

CTC Call for Proposals... Don't let the deadline pass you by! You've sent out your Valentine’s Day cards; now send in your proposal for the CTC. February 17 is the deadline for proposal submissions for NHPCO’s 15th Clinical Team Conference and Pediatric Intensive. This is your opportunity to teach and to learn from leaders in the field. October is a beautiful time in Nashville, and the Gaylord Opryland Resort and Convention Center is a wonderful place to reconnect with old friends and to make new ones. Submit your CTC Proposal today.

A Few Spaces Left for Ethics for Hospice Managers... Last chance to register for Ethics for Hospice Managers, an instructor-led, four week online learning module debuts on February 17, 2014. This is a Level I module of NHPCO's Hospice Manager Development Program but you need not be a participant in the MDP to participate in this online module. Learn more and sign up.

You can also plan for upcoming instructor-led modules. Review the 2014 Hospice MDP Schedule.

Application Deadline for Hospice Medical Director Certification Exam... Becoming Hospice Medical Director Certified™ (HMDC™) through the Hospice Medical Director Certification Board will demonstrate a physician’s commitment to and expertise in end-of-life care. HMDCB’s early application deadline for the 2014 certification examination is February 24, 2014. Late applications will be accepted until March 24, 2014 with an assessed late fee.

COMPLIANCE AND REGULATORY

CMS Issues CR 8620, CWF Editing for Vaccines Furnished by Hospice... CMS issued CR 8098 in 2013, which put an edit in place to block non-hospice providers from billing administration of the flu vaccine of the patient elected the Medicare Hospice Benefit. CMS recently issued CR8620, which rescinds CR8098 and allows any provider to bill for flu vaccine administration. It removes the edit previously put into place by CR 8098. The implementation date for CR8620 is April 7, 2014. CMS was also made aware of some minor typos noted in CR 8620 when it was issued on 2/6/14, so they will issue a corrected issue shortly. Review the CR8620 and the associated MLN articles.

MAC’s to Issue CR 8358 FAQ’s in Near Future... In a recent discussion with the collective hospice MAC’s about the reissued CR 8358, NHPCO learned that the MAC’s are working on a Frequently Asked Questions document to address provider questions that were not addressed in the reissued CR by CMS. The MAC’s will alert NHPCO when the FAQ document will be available for providers. Please stay tuned to NewsBriefs in the next few weeks.

NHPCO Attends OHMA ALJ Forum... OHMA held their first forum for Medicare appellants on February 12, 2014. Issues addressed were the ALJ appeal process, the hearing backlog, and initiatives to address the hearing backlog. A summary of the highlights of the forum, slides, and a link to the program recording will be available in NHPCO’s Regulatory & Compliance Center under Hot Topics by February 18, 2014.

NHPCO's Compliance Monitor is Available... The Compliance Monitor is updated weekly and provides current regulatory and compliance information for hospice and palliative care providers outside of NHPCO’s weekly NewsBriefs and Regulatory Alerts. The Compliance Monitor also includes NHPCO’s Compliance Calendar which is updated regularly.
NOTES FROM NHPCO

Celebrating Volunteers! the Theme for Volunteer Week 2014... April 6 – 12, 2014 is National Volunteer Week and NHPCO has posted some outreach materials to help recognize this important week. NHPCO encourages members to use these materials in any way that might be helpful as we celebrate our volunteers! Visit the outreach section of the website.

ACCESS AND OUTREACH

Extendicare Welcomed as WHV's Pioneer Post-Acute Community Partner... As a We Honor Veterans community partner, Extendicare will focus on respectful inquiry, compassionate listening and grateful acknowledgment in serving the post-acute healthcare needs of veterans. Read NHPCO's press release.

JOURNAL ARTICLES AND STUDIES OF NOTE

Fewer Heart Patients Dying from Heart Disease... More people who have known coronary heart disease die from other causes – such as cancer, and lung and neurological diseases – than heart disease, compared with 20 years ago, according to a Mayo Clinic study published online in Circulation, an American Heart Association journal. Learn more at eHospiceUSA.

OTHER NEWS AND NOTES

Palliative Care Page Added to Medline Plus... Medline Plus, a service of the U.S. National Library of Medicine, National Institutes of Health, has added a new palliative care page, describing what palliative care means and offering links to more than 350 pages with additional information. The links connect users to various resources, including those offered by the Center to Advance Palliative Care and NHPCO.

NEWS LINKS OF INTEREST

"Dealing With Life-Threatening Illness From Both A Doctor And Patient's Perspective," KPBS San Diego, 02/11/14.


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