

Hospice and Palliative Care Resources for the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19)



NHPCO COVID-19 Update – 06/16/21

NHPCO publishes the COVID-19 Update once a week on Wednesdays. Should there be breaking news of importance to the provider community, we will communicate that as needed.

“In an emergency, what treatment is given by ear? Words of Comfort.”

– Abraham Verghese, MD

Policy Update

New Reporting Guidance on Provider Relief Funds (PRF)

On June 11, 2021, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) released revised reporting requirements for recipients of Provider Relief Fund (PRF) payments. This revised guidance replaces ALL earlier guidance on reporting requirements, including the January 15, 2021 guidance issued by HHS. HRSA states “The revised reporting requirements will be applicable to providers who received one or more payments exceeding, in the aggregate, \$10,000 during a single Payment Received Period from the PRF General Distributions, Targeted Distributions, and/or Skilled Nursing Facility and Nursing Home Infection Control Distributions.”

[HHS opened registration](#) for the reporting portal in January 2021. Since then, HHS has carefully weighed the rapidly evolving nature of the pandemic and its impact on health care providers and other stakeholders, which is reflected in the revised notice issued today. The revised reporting requirements supplanting the January 15 requirements can be [downloaded from the HHS website](#) (PDF).

NHPCO members will find a Regulatory Alert with additional details on the [Alerts & Updates page](#) of the website.

Provider Update

CDC Now Calls Coronavirus Delta Variant a 'Variant of Concern'

[CNN reports](#), “The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention now calls the Delta variant of the novel coronavirus, also known as B.1.617.2, a “variant of concern.” The variant of concern designation is given to strains of the virus that scientists believe are more transmissible or can cause more severe disease. Vaccines, treatments and tests that detect the virus may also be less effective against a variant of concern. Previously, the CDC had considered the Delta variant to be a variant of interest.”

RESOURCES

CMS We Can Do This Webinars

CMS will be hosting a series of webinars as part of its We Can Do This COVID-19 Vaccine Campaign. The goal is to

continue promoting vaccination and work together to reach the Administration's goal of 70% of American vaccinated by July 4. Webinars dates and topics include:

- Thursday, June 17, 1:00-1:30 pm ET: Rural Toolkit - [Register here](#)
- Tuesday, June 22, 1:00-1:30 pm ET: Spanish Language Toolkits - Registration TBD*
- Thursday June 24, 1:00-1:30 pm ET: Healthcare workers Toolkit - Registration TBD
- Tuesday, June 29, 1:00-1:30 pm ET: Faith-Based Toolkits - Registration TBD
- Thursday, July 1, 1:00-2:00 pm ET: Toolkits for Racial and Ethnic Minority Communities - Registration TBD
- Thursday, July 8, 1:00-1:30 pm ET: Older Adults Toolkit - Registration TBD

For registration links, visit <https://wecandothishhs.gov/>.

*This webinar will be offered in Spanish.

-###-