

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



NHPCO COVID-19 Update – 10/02/20

NHPCO has created this update for hospice and palliative care providers to share recent news and helpful links. Please note, these Updates are published when there is helpful news to share.

“When you know better, you do better.” – Maya Angelou

Policy Update

HHS Announces \$20 Billion Phase 3 General Distribution

On October 1, 2020, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), [announced \\$20 billion](#) in new funding for providers on the frontlines of the coronavirus pandemic. Under this Phase 3 General Distribution allocation, providers that have already received Provider Relief Fund payments will be invited to apply for additional funding to ensure that they have received approximately 2% of annual patient care revenue and provide an add-on payment to account for lost revenues and expenses attributable to COVID-19. Previously ineligible providers, such as those who began practicing in 2020 will also be invited to apply, and an expanded group of behavioral health providers confronting the emergence of increased mental health and substance use issues exacerbated by the pandemic will also be eligible for relief payments.

Providers can begin applying for funds on **Monday, October 5, 2020**. The application period will run until **November 6, 2020**. HRSA will provide webinars to help providers with information about the application process.

Eligibility

HHS is making a large number of providers eligible for Phase 3 General Distribution funding, including:

- Providers who previously received, rejected or accepted a General Distribution Provider Relief Fund payment. Providers that have already received payments of approximately 2% of annual revenue from patient care may submit more information to become eligible for an additional payment.
- Behavioral Health providers, including those that previously received funding and new providers.
- Healthcare providers that began practicing January 1, 2020 through March 31, 2020. This includes Medicare, Medicaid, CHIP, dentists, assisted living facilities and behavioral health providers.

CMS Publishes Medicare Payments for COVID-19 Testing Flow Chart

CMS has published a [flow chart](#) that shows how Medicare payments for COVID-19 testing should be paid. This may be of interest to hospice and palliative care providers.

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