

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



## NHPCO COVID-19 Update – 11/13/20

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.

*“The best way to predict your future is to create it.” — Abraham Lincoln*

### Policy Update

#### **CMS Announces Wide Access to COVID-19 Antibody Treatment for Medicare Beneficiaries**

CMS announced on Friday, November 13, 2020 that Medicare beneficiaries can receive coverage of monoclonal antibodies to treat coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) with no cost sharing during the public health emergency (PHE). CMS’ coverage of monoclonal antibody infusions applies to bamlanivimab, which received an emergency use authorization (EUA) from the US Food and Drug Administration on Thursday, November 12. CMS states that this means that “beneficiaries can receive these potentially life-saving therapies in a range of settings – such as in a doctor’s office, nursing home, infusion centers, as long as safety precautions can be met.” CMS will issue billing and coding instructions for health care providers in the coming days. CMS anticipates that a broad range of providers and suppliers, including freestanding and hospital-based infusion centers, home health agencies, nursing homes and entities with whom nursing homes contract, will be able to administer this treatment in accordance with the EUA and bill Medicare to administer these infusions. Download information on [Monoclonal Antibody COVID-18 Infusion Program Instruction](#).

#### **COVID-19 Vaccine Codes and PC-ACE Software Update**

In anticipation of the availability of a vaccine(s), for the novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) in response to the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), the [American Medical Association](#) (AMA), working with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), created new codes for the vaccine and the administration of the vaccine. To prepare for the vaccine administration claims, the PC-ACE software is also updated and ready for providers to download. For more information, read the [MLN Connects Special Edition](#) (11/12/20).

### Resources

#### **Helping COVID’s Secondary Victims: Grieving Families and Friends from KHN**

KHN is sponsoring a Facebook Live event on grief and bereavement during the coronavirus pandemic, airing on November 16 at 1:00 p.m. ET. Judith Graham, author of KHN’s Navigating Aging column, will explore the unprecedented losses so many people are experiencing, with insight from Holly Prigerson and Diane Snyder-Cowan, past section leader of the bereavement professionals steering committee of MyNHPCO. Watch the conversation at <https://www.facebook.com/KaiserHealthNews/posts/10159519847533492>.

#### **Articles of Interest**

- [“Prayers and Grief Counseling After COVID: Trying to Aid Healing in Long-Term Care,”](#) Kaiser Health News.
- ["Helping Children Process Grief & Loss During COVID-19,"](#) NYU Langone Health NewsHub.