

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



NHPCO COVID-19 Update – 12/11/20

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.

“No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted.” – Aesop

Policy Update

FDA Advisory Panel Recommends EUA for Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccine

The FDA's Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee, whose recommendations the FDA usually follows, has voted in favor of emergency use authorization for the COVID-19 vaccine developed by Pfizer and BioNTech. The company intends to seek full approval for the vaccine by April of 2021.

CMS updates guidance on billing for COVID-19 treatment

The CMS has updated its [infographic](#) and frequently asked [questions](#) on payment guidelines for monoclonal antibody COVID-19 treatments. The FAQs offer general payment and billing details on hospital services, laboratory testing and inpatient prospective payment system payments, while the infographic provides information about expected Medicare payments to clinicians and how Medicare recipients can receive COVID-19 drugs without cost sharing.

Provider Update

NHPCO Launches New Webpage with COVID-19 Vaccine Resources

NHPCO has gathered COVID-19 vaccine resources and links from the CDC, FDA and others so that vaccine information and resources are all in one place. NHPCO will continue to update the vaccine information as more becomes available. Visit the [NHPCO COVID-19 resource page](#) and select **Vaccine** from the drop-down menu.

People Who Have Tested Positive for Covid-19 Should Still Get Vaccine

CNN shared an article about Dr. William Moss, an infectious disease pediatrician at Johns Hopkins University, encouraged anyone who has already tested positive for Covid-19 to get vaccinated once a vaccine becomes available. Moss added there is some potential that someone who has already tested positive for Covid-19 can produce a stronger antibody response once vaccinated. However, this is not the case for all vaccines, he said. Read the [article on the CNN website](#).

CDC Updates COVID-19 Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities Webpage

Links on this [CDC webpage](#) provide information about underlying health and social inequities that put many racial and ethnic minority groups at increased risk of getting sick, having more severe illness, and dying from COVID-19. Racial and ethnic minority groups are also unequally affected by unintended economic, social, and secondary health consequences of COVID-19 mitigation strategies such as social distancing.

Resources

Quick Videos on Racial Disparities and COVID-19

The highly acclaimed and important ANA COVID-19 webinar, [“How You Can Have a Direct Impact on Reducing the Devastating Racial Disparities of COVID-19,”](#) is now also available as easy to access and view five to 15 minute videos. The full 56-minute webinar provides clarity on the stark challenges faced by Black and Native American people during the pandemic. After viewing this on-demand webinar, you will have very specific actions you can take immediately to save more lives. If you do not have 56-minutes to watch the full webinar, ANA also offers the option to view Quick Videos on specific topics related to racial disparities and COVID-19 as your time allows. These resources are FREE for all nurses.

Palliative Care in Critically Ill COVID-19 Patients: Early New York City Experience

The COVID-19 pandemic in the USA has been accompanied by high rates of mortality and an unprecedented need for palliative care delivery. Little is known about the use of palliative care services in intensive care unit (ICU) settings during the COVID-19 pandemic. Download the article from [BMJ Supportive & Palliative Care](#).

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