



NewsBriefs

A weekly publication of the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization

[NHPCO NewsBriefs](#)

[June 05, 2014](#)

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Hospice Experience of Care Survey

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COMPLIANCE AND REGULATORY

NHPCO Meets with CMS Hospice Payment Policy Staff... On Monday June 2, NHPCO Health Policy leadership staff met with Laurence Wilson, Director of the CMS Chronic Care Policy Group, and his staff regarding hospice payment policy issues. Among the issues discussed were hospice payment reform, a review of the data points published in the FY2015 Hospice Wage Index proposed rule, as well as the challenging implementation issues with Part D and hospice. CMS staff invited additional and ongoing dialogue on issues discussed and follow up has already begun.

OIG Posts New Report about Ohio Medicaid Reimbursement for Hospice Claims... The OIG recently posted a report on the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services. (A-05-12-00087) 100 hospice claims were sampled; Hospices did not claim the correct room and board rate (9 claims) and did not properly apply the patient liability portion to the claimed room and board amount (7 claims). Hospices did not always meet election statement requirements for 40 sampled claims out of 100 but there were no recoupment findings. Read the details of this [OIG report](#).

CMS Posts New Hospice Related Information:

- Part D plan memo in Hospice Center - CMS posted a memo guidance to Part D plans about Part D Payment for Drugs for Beneficiaries Enrolled in Hospice for 2015. The purpose of this memorandum is to announce CMS's intention to continue the 2014 Part D hospice guidance through 2015. Sponsors are encouraged to consider the content of the guidance in the FY 2015 proposed

hospice wage index rule as they develop their bids for coverage year 2015. Review [the memo](#) on the CMS website.

- More FAQ's about the Medicare Care Choice Model - The Medicare Care Choice Model posted updated FAQ dated May 30, 2014. Access the FAQ on the [CMS webpage](#).

CMS's S&C Division Posts Infection Control Breach Report Memo... CMS's survey and certification division posted a memorandum identifying when a survey agency or accreditation organization is required to report an infection control breach to appropriate State authorities for public health assessment and management. [Read the memo](#) in its entirety.

Don't forget to access the [NHPCO's compliance monitor](#) to access additional regulatory and compliance information.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION

Hot Topics in Palliative Care... Hear about successes in the palliative care field and learn how to enhance and develop a forward thinking palliative care program. The following topics will be discussed during the *Hot Topics in Palliative Care* Virtual Conference:

- [Innovative Models of Palliative Care Delivery](#): explores how programs can extend the access of palliative care programming to patients and families coping with serious and complex illness.
- [The Affordable Care Act: Considering Its Impact on Palliative Care](#): covers how palliative care programs are poised to play an important role in the delivery of care, assisting healthcare systems as they deal with healthcare reform.
- [The Medical Home Model and Palliative Care](#): describes "At Home Support" and its program components.
- [Outpatient Palliative Care in a Community Clinic Setting](#): reviews the start-up of an outpatient palliative care center, the first of its kind in CA.

To learn more detail about these sessions and **Hot Topics in Palliative Care**, review the complete agenda. [Register now!](#)

The Interdisciplinary Team: Key Skills for Hospice Managers... Sign up for *The Interdisciplinary Team: Key Skills for Hospice Managers*, a four week instructor-led, online module starting July 21 2014. This module will equip you with the "key skills for hospice managers" who share the belief that the interdisciplinary team can make or break exceptional care. You also will learn the skills needed to lead and manage teams to ensure their optimal functioning.

This is a Level II module of NHPCO's Hospice Manager Development Program (MDP). Learn more and [register today](#).

The Future of End-of-Life Care – MLC 2015 Call for Proposals Now Open! NHPCO's 30th Management and Leadership Conference (April 30 - May 2, 2015, National Harbor, MD) focuses on the future - how the field will create, transform, refine and redefine hospice and palliative care. Join innovators, executives, leaders, managers, industry stakeholders and other healthcare entities that are envisioning, planning and preparing to execute the future of hospice palliative care for this exciting conference. Submit a [proposal](#) for an educational session and be part of the esteemed faculty for this year's MLC; the deadline is August 4, 2014.

NOTES FORM NHPCO

Help Get Hospice PSA on the Air... In the first week more than 14,000 people visited the website for the new awareness campaign "[Moments of Life: Made Possible by Hospice](#)." Part of the campaign includes a :30 second Public Service Announcement that NHPCO has distributed to more than 10,000 TV and cable stations across the country. NHPCO hopes that providers will help reach out to local broadcasters to encourage airing this PSA. Learn more about this effort and [how you can help](#).

How Big is Your Corpus Callosum? According to Hospice at Home CEO, Linda Beushausen, RN, PhD, CHPCA, today's hospice leaders not only need to know what it is, but must also strive to use it more often. In the June issue of NewsLine, she explains why, citing insights from numerous well-known authors. [Read her article now](#). (To save a print-friendly copy to read later or share, click the purple "Print This Article" button at the [end of the article](#).)

NEWS LINKS OF INTEREST

"[The gift of hospice](#)," The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, 05/29/14.

"[Butterfly release welcomes wings of hope and healing](#)," Southern Maryland News, 05/21/14.

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