

STANDARDS OF PRACTICE FOR HOSPICE PROGRAMS

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND RESOURCE SERIES

2 / How to Use the Standards

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The National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization's (NHPCO) Standards of Practice for Hospice Programs (2018) ("Standards") is organized into ten (10) chapters. None of the chapters are meant to stand alone. Each chapter begins with one or more principles of hospice care supporting that component of quality. Following the principle(s), the defined standards are divided into numerical group designations. The primary standard is designated by a whole number (e.g., 1, 2, 3) and is followed by related standards designated by the same whole number, a decimal, and a second number (e.g., 2.1, 2.2, 2.3). The numeric designations are solely for reference and are not intended to reflect priority or importance.

Following each group of standards is a set of "Practice Examples." Practice Examples are meant to be examples of various ways to implement the standards. The Practice Examples are not intended to be requirements or descriptions of the best or only way to meet the standards. They are only intended as examples from practice that can be imitated or used to spur ideas and creativity.

At the end of the standards text are appendices. Since the principles and standards in all chapters apply to the provision of hospice care in all settings, the appendices contain only additional principles and standards relevant to a particular practice area. Standards Change Tables follow the appendices to facilitate easy identification of key changes in the 2018 standards.

Please note: The Pediatric Standards are not included as an appendix in this document. They will be issued as a separate appendix in 2018, but will be included as an appendix in subsequent versions of NHPCO's Standards of Practice.