

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



NHPCO COVID-19 Update – 03/18/20

NHPCO has created this update for hospice and palliative care providers to share the most recent news and helpful links regarding this ongoing public health crisis.

Policy Updates

Guidance from CMS on Telehealth for Hospice Face-to-Face

NHPCO is confirming that the expansion of telehealth announced by President Trump and CMS Administrator Seema Verma yesterday **DOES NOT APPLY TO THE HOSPICE FACE-TO-FACE REQUIREMENT at this time.** We are working closely with CMS to work through the issues and those discussions continue.

NHPCO Requests Meeting with CMS COVID-19 Team to Discuss Opportunities for Hospice 1135 Waiver

Today NHPCO requested a meeting with the CMS COVID-19 team to discuss requests for 1135 waivers for hospice providers. Included in that discussion will be waivers for face-to-face, allowing virtual visits, providing additional flexibility for continuous home care and allowing in-home respite care, to name a few. The meeting is expected before the end of the week.

NHPCO Sends Request to MACs to Pause TPE Audits

Today, NHPCO asked the three Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs) for a pause in their TPE activity and asked that they bring our request to CMS for further discussion and approval. We heard back from all three MACs that the decision must be made by CMS and communicated to the MACs, but that it is under consideration. Stay tuned.

Provider Information

- [ASPR TRACIE Home-based Healthcare Infectious Disease Technical Assistance Request - March 2020](#) – HHS has posted a resource for providers developed in response to technical assistance requests seeking information on best practices for infectious disease outbreak management.
- [COVID-19 Shared Decision-Making Tool](#) – Based on the information about expected constraints in hospital beds and ventilators, NHPCO has created a new tool to help healthcare providers engage seriously ill individuals in shared decision-making. The tool provides an opportunity for proactive informed decision-making to ensure seriously ill individuals can make their wishes known and access care concordant with their preferences as available.

Resources

NHPCO COVID-19 Executive Dialogue

NHPCO is committed to helping our members respond effectively to patient and community concerns. Join us for this free webinar on **Wednesday, March 25, 2:00pm - 4:00pm ET**. We will include a review of the latest CDC recommendations, public policy implications, and a conversation with your colleagues in the field with moderate to severe caseloads. In a time where the situation is changing constantly, we understand how important it is for providers to know how to direct their efforts. When you register, you'll have an opportunity to submit a question, due to volume we cannot guarantee questions submitted during the webinar will be answered. [Register for the COVID-19 Executive Dialogue](#).

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To ensure you are added to our distribution list, [please complete this online form](#). This is available to members and non-members.

For the latest news and links, visit the NHPCO website at nhpco.org/coronavirus.

Need to find a previous COVID-19 Update, check out the [Update archive](#).