

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



NHPCO COVID-19 Update – 03/20/20

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

Senate Leaders and Administration Draft 3rd COVID-19 Related Bill

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) is working with the Administration and Senate Democrats on a third COVID-19 relief package. Leader McConnell's draft package ([see draft text](#)) includes direct cash payments to families, payments to small businesses, loans to industries impacted by the virus, and increased funding for the healthcare industry.

- **Proposal to eliminate sequestration until December 31, 2020.** There is one provision that does directly impact hospice. Draft text (attached) shared with NHPCO includes the temporary removal of the 2 percent sequestration cut to hospice, beginning on May 1, 2020 and ending on December 31, 2020.
- **Additional hospice provisions possible:** As this legislative package continues to be drafted NHPCO will be advocating that additional hospice related provisions including telehealth are included.

Congress will likely remain focused on legislative solution to this unfolding public health crisis and a fourth COVID-19 related bill is likely to be drafted in the coming weeks.

Hosts Stakeholder Meeting with NHPCO

Today (March 20), NHPCO met with CMS to share what we have been hearing from providers about COVID-19 over the last two weeks, including concerns with nursing home and hospital access and the dire needs for PPE and for additional flexibility for telehealth for the face-to-face encounter and virtual visits. We wanted to paint the picture of hospice providers struggles and challenges, which was very helpful to CMS staff. At the meeting were representatives of the Center for Clinical Standards and Quality (CCSQ), Survey and Certification, and the Center for Medicare Home Health and Hospice Payment Policy. CMS confirmed that the development of additional guidance is under way for hospice providers and that they welcome additional dialogue so that hospice providers get the answers they need to continue to provide care in the community. NHPCO will continue the dialogue in the coming days and weeks.

Resources

- [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Pandemic: Eligible Emergency Protective Measures](#) (FEMA)
- Household Hazardous Waste Disposal CDC Guidance:
 - [Disinfecting Your Home If Someone Is Sick](#)
 - [Clean & Disinfect](#)
 - Trash disposal for patients with COVID-19 in the home: Establish a dedicated, lined trash can: If possible, dedicate a lined trash can for the ill person. Use gloves when removing garbage bags, and handling and disposing of trash. Wash hands afterwards.
- [Working with Families Facing Undesired Outcomes During the COVID19 Crises](#) (SWHPN)

-###-