

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



NHPCO COVID-19 Update – 03/25/20

NHPCO has created this update for hospice and palliative care providers to share recent news and helpful links.

“You are there for your community. NHPCO is there for you.”

Policy Updates

Frequently Asked Questions for 1135 Waivers

NHPCO has released information for providers who would like to learn more about the federal [1135 waiver request process](#). Many state organizations and NHPCO have already submitted multiple 1135 waiver requests for hospice, asking for needed flexibilities for the hospice provider community. The 1135 Waiver Frequently Asked Questions provides the steps for submitting an individual provider or state organization request. If you already have or are considering submitting a request, we would like to hear from you and reinforce your specific needs in our ongoing discussions with CMS as we continue to push for blanket waivers. Please send an email to covid19@nhpco.org.

Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce During COVID-19 Response

The Department of Homeland Security Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Agency (CISA) has [provided guidance](#) on identifying the initial list of essential critical infrastructure workforce during the COVID-19 response. One area identified is for the Healthcare/Public Health sector, where hospices are listed in the section of "Workers in other medical facilities." As providers are working with local and state emergency management agencies to secure PPE and supplies, this guidance could be helpful in establishing hospices on the prioritization list. NHPCO will be submitting comments to CISA on the importance of keeping all community-based healthcare workers, including hospices, high on the priority list.

Senate Action Forthcoming on Third COVID-19 Legislative Package

In response to the unfolding public health crisis related to the COVID-19 pandemic, Congress and the Administration have reached a deal on a \$2 trillion economic stimulus legislation, S.3548, The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act or the "CARES" Act. This is the largest aid package in American history and is the third COVID-19 related piece of legislation that will be passed this month. Hospice related provision in this legislation include telehealth for face-to-face requirements, sequestration relief, and funding for COVID-19 related expenses. NHPCO will be putting out a policy alert and more information on this important legislation when this legislation passes.

Provider Updates

HQRP Data Reporting Exception

CMS recently posted guidance related to granting an exception for HQRP data submission related to the COVID. There has been some confusion as to whether this applies to HIS and CAHPS so NHPCO has requested clarification from CMS and we are awaiting their response.

OIG COVID-19 Portal

OIG created a portal for all information and announcements related to COVID-19. The portal can be accessed from OIG's main website or directly via this link: <https://www.oig.hhs.gov/coronavirus/>.

Telehealth & Virtual Visits Webinar hosted by NHPCO on 03/31/20

Please join us on Tuesday, March 31 from 4:00pm - 5:00pm ET for a live, interactive webinar on Telehealth & Virtual Visits. Telemedicine is taking a front and center role as the health care community battles COVID-19. During this session, we will talk about how Telehealth & Virtual Visits can be utilized by the hospice and palliative care community, discuss tips for a successful visit and have a Q&A session with some of our Telehealth experts. [Please register here for the webinar session.](#)

Resources

- [Evaluating and Testing Persons for COVID-19 \(CDC\)](#)

COVID-19 Executive Dialogue Webinar Slides

Today, NHPCO hosted a COVID-19 Executive Dialogue, a free webinar that addressed emergency preparedness information, a review of the latest CDC recommendations, public policy implications and a conversation with your colleagues in the field with moderate to severe caseloads. An archival recording of the webinar will be posted to the COVID-19 webpage; the [webinar slides are available for download.](#)

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