

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



NHPCO COVID-19 Update – 03/27/20

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

President Signs \$2T Stimulus Package – the CARES Act– What Does This Mean for Hospice and Palliative Care?

4:00 pm today, President Trump signed the \$2 T Stimulus Package, also called the CARES Act, into law. The House of Representatives approved the CARES Act this afternoon with no changes in the hospice provisions found in the Senate bill. The CARES Act has three provisions important to hospice and palliative care providers: are the following:

- Provisions for telehealth for face-to-face
- Sequestration relief
- Funding for COVID-19 related expenses

For more information and analysis of the legislation, NHPCO members can access to our Policy Alert (03/26/20) issued earlier this week on the [Regulatory News and Updates page](#). NHPCO has already been in touch with CMS to request immediate action on guidance for the hospice face-to-face provision through telehealth. More will be coming out soon.

NHPCO Sends Letter to the Department of Homeland Security Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) Requesting Prioritization for PPE

Today, [NHPCO sent a letter to CISA](#), who published an initial list of “essential infrastructure workforce” during the COVID-19 emergency. NHPCO stated: “The hospice and palliative care community is relying on the CISA list as one form of identification for hospice as critical infrastructure workers. We need this designation to be identified as priority for the distribution of PPE. Anything stronger that can be stated during this national emergency would be essential for many community-based providers to continue to care for vulnerable and very sick patients.”

Provider Updates

COVID-19 Employee Screening Template

NHPCO has created an [Employee COVID-19 Screening Template](#). Special thanks to Angie Sells from AseraCare Hospice and Honey Goodman from Treasure Valley Hospice for their contribution. Another option for employees to self-screen is a COVID-19 app available in the [Apple app store](#).

Resources

[California Health Care Foundation](#) has released a set of resources that includes simple communication tips on a variety of topics from Vital Talks.

[California State University](#) is making more than 20 high-quality palliative care courses and resources available at no charge. You can choose from select courses and use the code: PC4COVID. The offer is good on registrations through June 30.

The Hastings Center has developed an [ethics framework](#), cited by [The New York Times](#), for health care institutions to help them navigate this outbreak. It has been distributed to hospitals and professional associations. The response has been enormous, with tens of thousands of people flocking to our website to access this guidance since its release. The Hastings Center [COVID-19 ethics resource center](#) may also be a good resource, with insightful essays by leaders around the world on the ethical challenges posed by this crisis, and other valuable information.

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