

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



NHPCO COVID-19 Update – 03/30/20

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

Accelerated/Advance Payments

As part of the \$2.2 Trillion Stimulus package, in Section 3719, the Congress authorizes CMS to expand accelerated/advance payments to hospitals and all Part A and Part B providers during the COVID-19 public health emergency. CMS has now [issued guidance](#) authorizing the Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs) to implement an accelerated/advance payment program to increase cash flow to Part A and Part B providers impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. This accelerated/advance payment program is only for the duration of the public health emergency. NHPCO members will find additional information in the NHPCO Regulatory Alert (03/30/20) available for download on the [Regulatory Alerts and Updates page](#).

Delay in Cost Report Submissions

CMS is currently authorizing delays in filing cost reports for the following FYE dates:

- ***FYE October 31, 2019: June 30, 2020***
- ***FYE November 30, 2019: June 30, 2020***
- ***FYE December 31, 2019: July 31, 2020***

As this is a blanket waiver, no request for this delay is needed.

Provider Updates

OIG Message on Minimizing Burdens on Providers

Today, [OIG leadership released a message](#) regarding minimizing provider burden during the COVID-19 pandemic. During this time, OIG will attempt to minimize provider burden and grant flexibility when possible.

Provider Updates, con't.

Health care organizations that need extensions of OIG deadlines, such as to produce data for an OIG review or to comply with a Corporate Integrity Agreement, are encouraged to ask their OIG contact.

For any conduct during this emergency that may be subject to OIG administrative enforcement, OIG will carefully consider the context and intent of the parties when assessing whether to proceed with any enforcement action.

OIG also encourages electronic submissions of any materials that would ordinarily be mailed, as mail service has been temporarily suspended. There is a dedicated COVID-19 portal accessible from the [OIG homepage](#) with up to date information about operations, contact information, and COVID-related work.

Resources

- [OCR Issues Bulletin on Civil Rights Laws and HIPAA Flexibilities That Apply During the COVID-19 Emergency \(3/28/20\)](#)
- [New free Pandemic specific education resource for nurses from AACN.](#)

Free National Coalition Virtual Town Hall

On Thursday, April 2, from 11:30am to 12:30pm ET, the National Coalition for Hospice and Palliative Care is hosting, COVID-19 Virtual Town Hall: Conversation with Coalition Leaders: Impact and What Lies Ahead. [Registration for this free event is open now.](#)

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