

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



NHPCO COVID-19 Update – 04/13/20

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

Questions About CARES Act Funding

On Friday April 10, the Department of Health and Human Services began distribution of the \$30 billion in grant funding from CARES Act Provider Relief Fund for Medicare FFS providers in response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic (see the [NHPCO press release](#)). The funding would have come into your account as HHS Payments. If no payment has been received as of today, providers may want to follow up with HHS to check the status of the payment. For more information, go to the [HHS Provider Relief page](#) or call the CARES Provider Relief line at **866-569-3522**.

CARES Act Funding Terms and Conditions

HHS payment of this initial tranche of funds is conditioned on the healthcare provider's acceptance of the [Terms and Conditions](#) (PDF), which acceptance must occur within 30 days of receipt of payment. NHPCO has received many questions about the terms and conditions and will provide more detailed information on the considerations for hospice providers before accepting the money.

If a provider receives payment and does not wish to comply with these HHS Terms and Conditions, the provider must do the following: contact HHS within 30 days of receipt of payment and then remit the full payment to HHS as instructed.

Resources

New Resource from the CMS

- [COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\) on Medicare Fee-for-Service \(FFS\) Billing](#).

Articles of Interest

- [“Fair Allocation of Scarce Medical Resources in the Time of Covid-19,”](#) *New England Journal of Medicine*.
- [“How COVID-19 is straining hospice care,”](#) *PBS Newshour*.

#hpcFacesOfCaring Social Media Campaign:

Hospice and Palliative Care Teams Share Their Faces and Stories from the Field

Hospice and palliative care providers have been [sharing what it's like providing care from the field](#) amid COVID-19. We are so appreciative to those providers who have shared their faces and stories with us so far and encourage others to participate. The campaign is ongoing, and we share these posts on NHPCO social media channels (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram) throughout the week. [Learn more about the campaign.](#)

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Highlighting an NHPCO Member Resource

Today, the NHPCO Policy Team released a Regulatory Alert on the **FY 2021 Proposed Hospice Wage Index Rule** that came out in the Federal Register late Friday afternoon. In addition to the Regulatory Alert that offers helpful analysis, NHPCO has posted the **FY 2021 Proposed Hospice Rates by State & Country Charts** that are available exclusively to members.

Find these resource in the [Regulatory > Reimbursement > Medicare section](#) of the NHPCO website.
(*Tip: Log into the website before clicking on this link.*)

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[Find out more about NHPCO membership.](#)

NHPCO members that still need to renew, [find more information online](#), be sure you don't let your NHPCO membership expire when many important issues are on the horizon.