

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



### NHPCO COVID-19 Update – 04/20/20

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

##### **Two Hospice Providers Featured on the April 21, 2020 CMS Home Health and Hospice COVID-19 Updates Call**

Maureen Hinkleman, President and CEO of Hospice Care Network, Woodbury, NY, serving the greater New York City area and Bob Parker, Chief Clinical Officer and Chief Compliance Officer, Intrepid Healthcare Services, Carrollton, TX have been invited to share their best practices/insights with their peers amidst the pandemic on the Tuesday April 21 CMS Home Health and Hospice call, 3:00 - 3:30 p.m. ET.

- [Audio Webcast Link](#)
- **Toll Free Attendee Dial-In:** 833-614-0820
- **Access Passcode:** 9895252

##### **Additional Reporting Requirements for Nursing Homes with COVID-19 Cases**

On April 20, 2020, CMS issued guidance entitled: [Upcoming Requirements for Notification of Confirmed COVID-19 \(or COVID19 Persons under Investigation\) Among Residents and Staff in Nursing Homes](#). CMS is reinforcing an existing requirement that nursing homes must report communicable diseases, healthcare-associated infections and potential outbreaks to State and Local health departments. CMS has also announced that rulemaking will follow, with requirements that facilities report this data to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in a standardized format and frequency defined by CMS and CDC. Failure to report cases of residents or staff who have confirmed COVID-19 and persons under investigation (PUI) could result in an enforcement action.

##### **PPE and Testing for Hospice Providers Among Items Being Pushed by Bipartisan Caucus in Congress**

The Problem Solvers Caucus released a [bipartisan checklist](#) of public health benchmarks and policies to help with the recovery from the coronavirus pandemic. The Problem Solvers Caucus is a bipartisan group of 50 House members, 25 from each party, co-chaired by Reps. Josh Gottheimer, D-N.J., and Tom Reed, R-N.Y. Among the items on the checklist is the need for established rapid testing, operational protocols, PPE, and health capacity monitoring plans for hospice and other care settings to ensure patients, residents, staff and the public at large are protected going forward. Since April 3, 2020 NHPCO has been working with a coalition of hospice stakeholders in [supporting PPE access and COVID-19 testing](#) in their advocacy with Congress on the next COVID-19 related piece of legislation.

## **Provider Updates**

### **Coalition Webinar on Effective Virtual Visits and COVID-19**

COVID-19 has increased the opportunity for virtual visits, but how do we make sure the quality of care is maintained? Please join NHPCO, in collaboration with the National Coalition of Hospice and Palliative Care's Quality workgroup, as we host a webinar on April 27, from 4:00 – 5:30 p.m. ET on Effective Virtual Visits. The faculty includes an interdisciplinary panel of clinical experts. Co-facilitating the discussion will be Dr. Joe Rotella from AAHPM and Lori Bishop from NHPCO. CE/CME credit will be available for nurses and physicians.

[Additional information and registration](#) are available online. Please note, you may submit questions for the panel in advance on the registration form.

## **Resources**

### **Preventing COVID-19 Hospitalizations**

Cyft has published an article to help healthcare providers use data to identify at-risk individuals that may benefit from proactive care to prevent COVID-19 hospitalizations. The information provides a great opportunity for you to collaborate with your healthcare partners caring for seriously ill individuals. [Read the article on the Cyft website.](#)

### **Face Mask Information from the CDC**

- The CDC has posted information about face masks manufactured in other countries that are similar to NIOSH standards. Visit the CDC website for information on: [When N95 Supplies are Running Low/ Personal Protective Equipment: Respiratory Protection and Facemasks.](#)
- The CDC has posted information about NIOSH-Counterfeit face masks. Visit the CED website for information on: [Counterfeit Respirators / Misrepresentation of NIOSH-Approval.](#)