

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



### NHPCO COVID-19 Update – 04/29/20

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

##### **Legislative Asks for the COVID 4.0 Legislative Package from National Hospice Stakeholder Groups**

Yesterday, the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization (NHPCO), the National Association for Home Care & Hospice (NAHC), LeadingAge, and the Visiting Nurse Associations of America/ElevatingHOME [sent a letter to Congress](#) with requests for hospice in the next legislation to address COVID-19, referred to as COVID 4.0. It is expected to be taken up by the House sometime next week.

##### **Webinar on PPP and CARES Act Funding and Reporting Requirements**

Save the date for a NHPCO webinar on the terms and conditions, details and reporting requirements for the Payroll Protection Plan (PPP) funding and the CARES Act Stimulus funding. The webinar will be held May 18, 2020, 2:00-3:30 p.m. ET. Registration details will be announced in an upcoming Update.

##### **Using the new ICD-10 code for COVID-19**

We have been receiving questions from providers who have tried to submit claims for patients with COVID-19 as the primary diagnosis. Earlier this month, we raised the issue with the Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs) on our monthly call with them. We reached out to Acevedo Consulting to get the latest information on using the new ICD-10 code. See below.

*The new ICD-10 code for COVID-19 (U07.1) is effective April 1, 2020. This diagnosis should not have been used when submitting March claims as the code did not exist in March. To help allay confusion (and avoid denials) it is important to understand that the April 1st date is for dates of service, not date of the claim. And, U07.1 (COVID-19) is only to be assigned and reported with confirmed cases of the COVID-19 coronavirus.*

If there is a denial reason and the services were provided on or after April 1, 2020, please let us know at [COVID19@nhpco.org](mailto:COVID19@nhpco.org) so that we can follow up.

## **Provider Update**

### **Webinar Recording Now Available: OCR Update on HIPAA and COVID-19**

The HHS Office for Civil Rights (OCR) hosted a webinar on April 24, 2020, for health IT stakeholders on HIPAA privacy and security issues related to COVID-19 and recent OCR actions related to the pandemic. A recording of this webinar is now [available on YouTube](#). Download the [slides from this presentation](#).

### **Palliative Care Providers: CMS Adds New COVID-19 Clinical Trials Improvement Activity to the Quality Payment Program**

CMS issued a letter thanking clinicians for their ongoing efforts to treat patients and combat COVID-19 and shared additional details on the new Merit-Based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) improvement activity. As announced earlier this month, clinicians who participate in a COVID-19 clinical trial and report their findings to a clinical data repository or registry many now earn credit in MIPS under the Improvement Activities performance category for the 2020 performance period by attesting to this new activity. Access the [letter on the CMS website](#) for more information.

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