

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



## NHPCO COVID-19 Update – 05/11/20

NHPCO has created this update for hospice and palliative care providers to share recent news and helpful links.

*“Taking care of yourself makes you stronger for everyone in your life ... including you.”*

*– Kelly Rudolph*

### Policy Updates

#### **CMS Posts Additional Waivers**

CMS added the following waivers that affect hospice providers with an inpatient unit:

***Physical Environment for Multiple Providers/Suppliers Inspection, Testing & Maintenance (ITM) under the Physical Environment Conditions of Participation:*** CMS is waiving certain physical environment requirements for Hospitals, CAHs, inpatient hospice, ICF/IIDs, and SNFs/NFs to reduce disruption of patient care and potential exposure/transmission of COVID-19. The physical environment regulations require that facilities and equipment be maintained to ensure an acceptable level of safety and quality. CMS will permit facilities to adjust scheduled inspection, testing and maintenance (ITM) frequencies and activities for facility and medical equipment. View the [Specific Physical Environment Waiver Information on page 25-26](#).

***Specific Life Safety Code (LSC) for Multiple Providers - Waiver Information:*** CMS is waiving and modifying particular waivers under 42 CFR §482.41(b) for hospitals; §485.623(c) for CAHs; §418.110(d) for inpatient hospice; §483.470(j) for ICF/IIDs and §483.90(a) for SNF/NFs. See the following summary of changes; please be sure to [read the complete text of the waiver allowances](#).

- a. ***Alcohol-based Hand-Rub (ABHR) Dispensers:*** We are waiving the prescriptive requirements for the placement of alcohol-based hand rub (ABHR) dispensers for use by staff and others due to the need for the increased use of ABHR in infection control.
- b. ***Fire Drills:*** Due to the inadvisability of quarterly fire drills that move and mass staff together, we will instead permit a documented orientation training program related to the current fire 27 5/11/2020 1 plan, which considers current facility conditions.
- c. ***Temporary Construction:*** CMS is waiving requirements that would otherwise not permit temporary walls and barriers between patients.

#### **Register for Government Funding Webinar #2**

Registration is now open for the next webinar in the COVID-19 CARES Act Government Funding Series, Dealing with Multiple Sources of CARES Act Funding (Provider Relief Funding, PPP Loans, Accelerated Payments) and Preparation for Reporting, offered on May 18, 2:00 to 4:00 pm ET. The program will provide attendees with an increased understanding of provider obligations relating to the various funding streams available to them during this period. To meet their pressing concerns regarding use of funds and preparing for reporting to the funding sources, attendees will be provided with practical guidance in the identification of qualifying charges against the respective revenue sources as well as the avoidance of duplicate charges against those revenue sources. Faculty: Meg Pekarske and Bryan Nowicki, Husch Blackwell, Mark Sharp, CPA and Aaron Little, CPA, BKD, and Ted Cuppett, CPA, The Health Group. This webinar is open to all providers. [Register online](#).

## **Resources**

### **ASPR Tracie Resource**

This collection provides a curated set of resources and tools for decision-makers managing healthcare workforce challenges in response to the COVID-19 emergency.

- [COVID-19 Workforce Virtual Toolkit: Resources for Healthcare Decision-Makers Responding to COVID-19 Workforce Concerns.](#)

### **CDC Staffing Resource Page is Updated**

- The CDC updated the [Staffing Resources webpage](#) on 5/9/20.

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