

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



NHPCO COVID-19 Update – 05/12/20

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

House Democrats Release \$3 Trillion Coronavirus Relief Bill

The [1,815-page bill](#) entitled the “[Health and Economic Recovery Omnibus Emergency Solutions Act](#)” or “HEROES Act,” H.R. 6800. House Democrats are planning to move ahead with a Friday vote on the measure. The Senate is not expected to pass this legislation. The legislation includes several potential hospice and health care related provisions including \$175 billion for the Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund, which includes \$100 billion in grants for hospital and health care providers and \$75 billion for testing and contact tracing. In addition, there are provisions that lowers the interest rate for loans to Medicare providers made under the Accelerated and Advance Payment Program, as well as subsidize workplace health insurance for the newly jobless, raise Medicaid funding and reopen HealthCare.gov for enrollment. The legislation also calls of unions, corporations and insurers to fully fund private employer insurance premiums for laid-off or furloughed workers between March and next January. The Republican controlled Senate is planning on writing its own legislation which will likely be seen in the coming weeks.

Letter from CMS Administrator to Nursing Home Workers

Today, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Administrator Seema Verma [penned a letter to nursing home management and staff](#). Administrator Verma shared her gratitude for the unwavering dedication and commitment of nursing home management and staff in keeping residents safe and for continuing to compassionately care for those who rely on them during this unprecedented time. The letter also provides links to previously shared infection control resources.

NHPCO Updates 1135 Blanket Waivers for Hospice

With the two new waivers announced yesterday that apply to hospice inpatient facilities, NHPCO has updated the [NHPCO summary of hospice 1135 blanket waivers](#).

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](#).

Provider Updates

Telehealth Video: Medicare Coverage and Payment of Virtual Services

CMS updated a [video](#) that answers common questions about the expanded Medicare telehealth services benefit during the COVID-19 public health emergency.

Resources

Updated CDC Resources

- [Healthcare Infection Prevention and Control FAQs for COVID-19](#) (5/11/20)
- [Funeral Guidance for Individuals and Families](#) (5/10/20)

Death, Grief, and Funerals in the COVID Age

The Virtual Funeral Collective banded together as part of a larger initiative called the Global COVID-19 Relief Coalition. They have created a 47-page document that contains a collection of resources and best practices from the collective to help providers support clients, patients, communities, and ourselves during this stressful time. Download [Death, Grief, and Funerals in the COVID Age](#).

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