

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



NHPCO COVID-19 Update – 05/20/20

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

CARES Act Funding Deadline Approaching: Providers Must Act by June 3, 2020 to Receive Additional Relief Fund General Distribution Payment

Today, HHS made [an announcement](#) stating the following: “Eligible providers have until June 3, 2020, to accept the Terms and Conditions and submit their revenue information to support receiving an additional payment from the Provider Relief Fund \$50 billion General Distribution. All providers who automatically received an additional General Distribution payment prior to 5:00 pm, Friday, April 24th, must provide HHS with an accounting of their annual revenues by submitting tax forms or financial statements. These providers must also agree to the program Terms and Conditions if they wish to keep the funds.”

Visit hhs.gov/providerrelief for more information.

Members in need of more information on Provider Relief Funds and what information should be considered before attestation should review the information from the NHPCO COVID-19 Government Funding Series webinar #1 and webinar #2 on the [NHPCO member-only COVID-19 resource page](#). *(Providers should log-in on nhpc.org and then click the link to the members-only COVID-19 resource page.)*

Medicare 2% Sequestration Suspension and the Hospice Aggregate Cap

As previously reported, Section 3709 of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act suspended the 2% payment adjustment currently applied to all Medicare Fee-For-Service (FFS) claims due to sequestration. The suspension is effective for claims with dates of service from May 1 through December 31, 2020. Thank you to Ted Cuppett, the Health Group, for providing NHPCO with information about the interplay between the [sequestration and the hospice aggregate cap](#).

Hospices that do not have a CAP liability will realize a two percent (2%) increase in Medicare payments for services rendered on or after May 1, 2020. Likewise, CAP hospices will realize a two percent (2%) increase as well. We have received many questions regarding how this increase in payments will impact the CAP liability for hospices with payments exceeding the aggregate payment limitation (“CAP”). The analysis includes examples reflecting the CAP liability and net cash flow impact assuming a hospice bills \$1,000,000/month for 2020.

CMS COVID-19 Lessons from the Front Lines, May 22, 12:30 – pm ET

This week’s CMS webinar features several hospice and palliative care speakers with the topic: “emerging best practices in communicating and caring for patients with serious illness in the face of COVID-19 and beyond.” Mark your calendar and be sure to register.

Lessons from the Front Lines calls are a joint effort between CMS Administrator Seema Verma, FDA Commissioner Stephen Hahn, MD, and the White House Coronavirus Task Force. Physicians and other clinicians are invited to share their experience, ideas, strategies, and insights with one another related to their COVID-19 response. There is an opportunity to ask questions of presenters.

This week's *Lessons from the Front Lines* will highlight a discussion on COVID-19 therapeutics with FDA Commissioner Stephen Hahn, MD and providers in the field, including:

- Magdalena Sobieszczyk, MD, MPH, Chief of Infectious Disease, New York Presbyterian/Columbia University
- J. Njeri Wainaina, MD, FACP, Associate Professor of Medicine and Surgery, Medical College of Wisconsin

We will also have a robust discussion on emerging best practices in communicating and caring for patients with serious illness in the face of COVID-19 and beyond, featuring:

- Shoshana Ungerleider, MD, Founder End Well Foundation; *How COVID-19 presents new avenues for care*
- Michael Fratkin, MD, CEO ResolutionCare Network; *Telemedicine in Palliative Care*
- Adam Hayden, Patient Advocate; *Living with life-threatening/limiting illness in the face of COVID-19*
- Sonali Wilborn, MD; CMO Heart of Hospice; *Creating a space for hospice within acute care settings*
- Sunita Puri, MD; *Addressing physician grief in the COVID-19 era*
- *And Others*

Details:

Friday, May 22nd at 12:30 – 2:00 PM Eastern

Toll Free Attendee Dial-In: 877-251-0301; Access Code: 6086125 [Web Link](#)

Provider Updates

NHPCO Requesting Clarification from CMS

Regarding the May 18th CMS guidance document “Nursing Home Reopening Recommendations for State and Local Officials,” NHPCO has reached out to CMS for clarification of vendor status, and testing requirements for hospice staff who enter these facilities. As soon as we receive feedback, we will share.

Resources

NQF Presentation Available Online

National Quality Forum hosted the webinar, Hospice and Long-Term Care at the Front Lines of the Pandemic, on May 19 that featured NHPCO President and CEO Edo Banach. NQF has posted the [presentation on YouTube](#).

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