

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



NHPCO COVID-19 Update – 05/22/20

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

“Strength does not come from physical capacity. It comes from an indomitable will.”

– Mahatma Gandhi

Policy Updates

Thank You to Hospice and Palliative Care Advocates on the CMS COVID-19 Lessons from the Frontlines Call Today

Two of today’s speakers on the CMS “COVID-19 Lessons from the Front Lines” talked about hospice and palliative care.

- Michael Fratkin, MD, CEO ResolutionCare Network, on Telemedicine in Palliative Care
- Sonali Wilborn, MD; CMO Heart of Hospice; Creating a space for hospice within acute care settings

You can access the recording of today’s call on the CMS website. Look for the audio recording of the May 22 [“From the Frontlines”](#) call that will be posted shortly.

NHPCO Updates the COVID-19 FAQs Grid for Members

NHPCO has updated the COVID-19 FAQs based on the HHS/CMS activity and additional clarity provided. Watch for the version number and the date to ensure you have the latest version. Today’s version is V.1.2. We expect that this document will be critically important to cite as guidance after the public health emergency is over, when the MACs and auditors begin their scrutiny of hospice again.

To download this updated document, members must:

1. Log into the nhpco.org website
2. Once logged in, access this [member-only COVID page](#)
3. Download the PDF

Provider Updates

FDA Update on Antibody Tests

[FDA on Thursday \(May 21\) listed 27 COVID-19 antibody tests that no longer are on the market](#) under FDA’s March 16 policy that allowed tests to be marketed and distributed without FDA authorization as long as the manufacturers notified the agency. The list includes tests that were voluntarily withdrawn by the manufacturers, as well as those for which there are no pending Emergency Use Authorization requests or issued EUAs. The tests on the removal list will not be marketed or distributed, FDA says. The agency expects the list will continue to be updated.

Resources

VA COVID Coach Mobile App

VA developing content for [COVID Coach](#) mobile app. The COVID Coach app was created for everyone, including Veterans and Servicemembers, to support self-care and overall mental health during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

Faces of Caring Blog on Bereavement Support

Many hospices provide bereavement services to their communities and with COVID-19 there will surely be a need for this type of emotional support. Patti Anewalt, Director of the Pathways Center for Grief & Loss at Hospice & Community Care in Lancaster, PA, shares some of the work her program has done. Read [Hospice Professionals Rise to the Challenge](#) on the NHPCO blog.

NPR Airs Story on Funerals and Grief.

Listen to [As Coronavirus Upends Traditional Funerals, Locals Find Ways To Grieve The Dead](#).

A Hospice Chaplain in *The New York Times*

Chris Sikora a hospice chaplain with Mission Hospice in San Diego was published in the *Times*. Read "[The Case for Music in Times of Loss.](#)"

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