

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



NHPCO COVID-19 Update – 05/29/20

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

*“The best way to predict the future is to create it.”
– Abraham Lincoln*

Policy Updates

CMS Issues Updates to the Frequently Asked Questions (5/27/2020)

CMS has issued [new updates to the FAQs](#) with several additions for hospice, including cost report deadlines, billing clarifications, clarifications about the initial and comprehensive assessments being conducted through audio only, and clarification that the face-to-face encounter must be conducted using telehealth (audio and visual) technology. NHPCO members can find the [updated FAQs](#) in the members-only section of the website – Version 1.3 May 29, 2020.

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

Discussion with CMS on Hospice Care in the Nursing Home During COVID – We Need Your Help!

Today, NHPCO staff had a discussion with CMS Center for Clinical Standards and Quality staff on hospice care in the nursing home during COVID. Over the last two months, we have been regularly providing updates from hospice providers on the challenges faced. CMS is now asking for additional feedback as they work with the CMS nursing home team to address issues identified.

NHPCO would like updates regarding your experience with nursing facilities during COVID 19 PHE. We are especially interested in:

- Barriers to entry?
- Nursing homes requiring hospice patients in their nursing home to revoke their hospice benefit so that the nursing home can bill the Medicare SNF benefit?
- Nursing homes requiring hospice patients to transfer to another hospice when they determine that the nursing home will only contract with one hospice?
- Willingness of nursing home staff to assist in audio only or telehealth visits?
- Testing of hospice staff before entry to the nursing home. How often, who pays, where do report results go?
- Hospice support for nursing home staff or families?
- What has worked? What has helped you with entry?

Please email your responses to regulatory@nhpco.org. In the subject heading, please place “input on facility access during PHE”. Having this information greatly assists us in our advocacy efforts.

Provider Updates

FEMA Announces Operational Guidance for the 2020 Hurricane Season

To address the challenges of managing disaster response and recovery efforts during this year's hurricane season, FEMA is releasing the "[COVID-19 Pandemic Operational Guidance for the 2020 Hurricane Season](#)" to help emergency managers and public health officials best prepare for disasters, while continuing to respond to and recover from coronavirus (COVID-19). The guidance can also be used by private sector and non-governmental organizations to gain an understanding of the government's posture, planning and readiness efforts.

Resources

CDC Updated- Considerations for Preventing Spread of COVID-19 in Assisted Living Facilities

The CDC [updated recommendations](#) about visitor restrictions and group activities to assist facilities if, based on guidance from their state and local officials, they begin to relax restrictions. (May 29, 2020)

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