

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



NHPCO COVID-19 Update – 06/04/20

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 Update

Congress Passes Paycheck Protection Program Modification Bill.

On May 28, 2020, the House passed H.R. 7010, the Paycheck Protection Program Flexibility Act. On June 3, 2020, the bill was passed by the Senate. The bill is expected to be signed by President Trump. This legislation makes business loans provided under the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) which was created in the CARES Act more accessible as well as loan terms more flexible. The legislation extends the timeframe to use PPP funds from eight weeks to 24 weeks and requires businesses to now use 60% of the funds on payroll, it was previously 75%. Many hospice providers have been recipients of PPP loans. For full text of the legislation please visit [Congress.gov](https://www.congress.gov). A detailed NHPCO Policy Alert on the legislation will be made available on June 5 for NHPCO members; visit the [Alerts and Updates page](#) to download the alert tomorrow.

CMS Updates Related to Nursing Homes and Infection Control

- **6/1/20 Memo - COVID-19 Survey Activities, CARES Act Funding, Enhanced Enforcement for Infection Control deficiencies, and Quality Improvement Activities in Nursing Homes**

In their June 1 guidance memo (QSO-20-31-All) to State Survey Agency Directors, CMS Quality, Safety & Oversight Group (QSOG), CMS noted that further direction related to prioritization for completing the focused infection control surveys in nursing homes is needed, and is initiating performance-based funding requirements tied to CARES Act grants. CMS is enhancing penalties related to noncompliance with infection control. And, Quality Improvement Organization (QIO) activity will be refocused to assist nursing homes in addressing dynamic infection control activities to combat COVID-19. [Download the full document.](#)

- **6/4/20 Memo - Posting of Nursing Home Inspections**

CMS will post health inspection (i.e., surveys) results that were conducted on or after March 4, 2020, which is the first date that CMS altered the way that inspections are scheduled and conducted. This includes inspections related to complaints and facility-reported incidents (FRIs) that were triaged at the Immediate Jeopardy (IJ) level, and the streamlined Infection Control inspection process that was developed based on the guidance for preventing the spread of COVID-19. The information will be available in the "Spotlight" section of the [Nursing Home Compare](#) home page on June 4, 2020.

- **6/4/20 Memo - Release of COVID-19 Nursing Home Data**

CMS will begin posting the reported COVID-19 NHSN data for viewing by nursing home residents and families, facilities, stakeholders, and the general public. The information posted will include each facility's name, their reported number of confirmed and suspected cases of COVID-19 (including residents and staff), resident Memorandum Summary. CMS will post COVID-19 data submitted by facilities via the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN). For more details on the specific

data elements collected, please view the [CDC's Long Term Care Facility COVID-19 Module](#) website. The NHSN COVID-19 information will be posted on June 4, 2020, on the [Nursing Home Compare](#) home page, in the "Spotlight" section, and will be updated on a weekly basis.

Provider Updates

Upcoming NASEM Webinar on June 5

The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) is holding a webinar June 5, 2020, "Innovative Hospital-Based Palliative Care Responses to the COVID-19 Pandemic: Perspectives from Program Leaders of Two Large Hospitals." [Register online.](#)

National Coalition Town Hall on June 22

The National Coalition for Hospice and Palliative Care will host a COVID-19 Virtual Town Hall, "Conversations with Coalition Leaders: COVID-19 Impact on Palliative Care and Hospice, Now and into the Future," on Thursday, June 22, 2020, 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. ET. There will be special emphasis on the role of chaplaincy and need for psychosocial support for patients, families and the palliative care and hospice team. [Registration is open now.](#)

NPR on COVID-19 and Hospice

NPR's All Things Considered correspondent Deborah Amos looks at the challenges facing hospice providers during the COVID-19 crisis. Amos speaks with Janet Bull, MD of Four Seasons and NHPCO's Edo Banach. Listen on the [WAMU website.](#)

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