

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



## NHPCO COVID-19 Update – 06/05/20

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

*"A hero is an ordinary individual who finds the strength to persevere and endure in spite of overwhelming obstacles." – Christopher Reeve*

### Policy Update

#### **NHPCO Submits Comments on President Trump's Executive Order for Regulatory Relief**

Today, NHPCO responded to President Trump's Executive Order 13924: Regulatory Relief to Support the Economic Recovery. The President requested that agencies "should address this economic emergency by rescinding, modifying, waiving, or providing exemptions from regulations and other requirements that may inhibit economic recovery..." NHPCO provided the administration with recommendations for regulatory relief, identifying what flexibilities adopted by the Administration should be made permanent and identifying areas for enforcement discretion after the public health emergency has concluded.

NHPCO focused on regulatory flexibilities that encourage economic recovery, such as making the hospice face-to-face encounter available through telehealth after the end of the public health emergency, allowing audio-only for CPT codes for advance care planning, requesting a code for telehealth visits on the claim form, the use of pseudo patients for hospice aide training, and support for telehealth services to continue after the end of the public health emergency. In addition, NHPCO focused on innovation, requested that the Administration consider the development of a community based palliative care model through the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (CMMI). Finally, NHPCO focused on enforcement considerations, requesting that TPE and other audits continue to be suspended for twelve months after the end of the public health emergency and that CMS designate hospice workers as essential workers in guidance to nursing homes.

Read the full [NHPCO comment letter](#) available on the NHPCO website.

#### **H.R. 7010, The Paycheck Protection Program Flexibility Act of 2020**

On June 3, 2020, Congress passed H.R.7010, the Paycheck Protection Program Flexibility Act. This legislation amends the CARES Act and aims to make business loans provided under the Payroll Protection Program (PPP) more accessible and loan terms more flexible. Many hospice providers have been recipients of PPP loans. Members will find a Policy Alert on the NHPCO website, to access:

1. Log in on [nhpco.org](http://nhpco.org)
2. Access the [Regulatory Alerts and Updates](#) page
3. Download the Policy Alert on H.R. 7010.

### **FAQ Grid Update**

While there have been no changes, in response to requests from hospices for clarification, information was added to the CMS References section regarding recording SW phone calls for RHC visits on the hospice claim forms. Members can access the [updated FAQ document here](#) (you will need to be logged in to access and download: COVID-19 Frequently-Asked-Questions).

### **Provider Updates**

#### **CDC Updates COVID-19 Forecasts**

[Updated forecasts](#) include new hospitalizations, national and state specific forecasts.

### **Resources**

#### **TELEHEALTH.HHS.GOV**

HHS has [posted a website](#) for patients and providers about telehealth.

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