

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



NHPCO COVID-19 Update – 07/01/20

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

*“Success is not final, failure is not fatal: It is the courage to continue that counts.”
— Winston Churchill*

Policy Update

Response from CMS Regarding Facility Access Issues

After requesting clarification, NHPCO just received feedback from CMS regarding hospice provider questions in response to the CMS answer to question 25 in the [June 2020 FAQ for non LTC and ICFs/IIDs](#) regarding the discharge of patients from hospice as “outside of the hospice’s service area” if unable to access the patient in-person after reasonable attempts and documentation in the patient’s record.

CMS response to NHPCO:

- CMS encourages providers to utilize the [current waivers](#) and previous published guidance in conjunction with in-person visits to meet the needs of the individual.
- CMS also recommends that providers use the CMS Quality Safety and Oversight Group resource mailbox QSOG_Hospice@cms.hhs.gov to address specific issues they encounter regarding facility access.

Provider Update

CMS Update

- [Strategies for Optimizing the Supply of N95 Respirators](#) (Updated 6/28/20)

Information from KFF

- [Where are the COVID-19 Hotspots? Tracking State Outbreaks](#)

Resources

HHS Announces Partnership with Morehouse School of Medicine to Fight COVID-19 in Racial and Ethnic Minority and Vulnerable Communities

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Minority Health (OMH) announced the selection of the Morehouse School of Medicine as the awardee for a new \$40 million initiative to fight COVID-19 in racial and ethnic minority, rural and socially vulnerable communities. [Read full news release.](#)