

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



NHPCO COVID-19 Update – 07/17/20

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

*"The greatest glory in living lies not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall."
– Nelson Mandela.*

Policy Update

NHPCO Provides Feedback to Newly Formed Commission on Safety and Quality in Nursing Homes

The [Commission on Safety and Quality in Nursing Homes](#) was formed by CMS in mid-May, 2020 to focus on a comprehensive assessment of the nursing home response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Commission is made up of 25 members and operates independently from CMS for this work. On Friday, July 17, NHPCO provided the following feedback to the newly formed Commission, as a response to the question:

- *I'd like to provide the Commission with my perspective based on my experience with nursing homes, specifically my comments relate to best practices for improved care delivery and responsiveness to the needs of all nursing home residents in preparation for, during, and following an emergency. (500 word limit)*

NHPCO responded: The National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization recommends best practices to support nursing home residents at the end of life and their families. Allow hospice workers to be considered essential, work with facilities and hospice on testing to gain entry to the facility, facilitate telecommunication options for hospice patients, and consider the unintended consequences of the 3-day qualifying stay waiver for patients on hospice who are required to revoke to get their SNF benefit.

NHPCO also provided the Commission with the AHCA/NCAL/NHPCO document entitled [Guidance on the Role of Hospice Services in LTC Facilities During COVID-19 Pandemic](#), developed collaboratively in April 2020.

COVID-19 FAQs Updated

The COVID-19 FAQ document has been updated and is now available exclusively for NHPCO members. Visit the [members-only COVID-19 resource page](#) (it requires log-in) and download this vital FAQ document. In this document, NHPCO has gathered answers to many of the questions that providers have asked since the beginning of the COVID-19 public health emergency. The FAQs separate questions by topic, with answers and links to the regulatory citations for providers.

Resources

JAMA Talks with Dr. Fauci

The JAMA Network has released a [livestreamed video](#) with the CDC's Dr. Anthony Fauci talking about the COVID-19 resurgence. It's an interesting wide-ranging discussion about COVID-19.