

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



NHPCO COVID-19 Update – 08/05/20

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

“Tough times never last, but tough people do.” — Robert H. Schuller

Policy Update

Trump Orders HHS to Make Telehealth Expansion Permanent

On Monday August 3, President Trump signed an Executive Order to review and continue Medicare's coverage of telehealth services. Shortly afterwards, CMS proposed to permanently allow Medicare providers to use telehealth to carry out home visits for so-called evaluation and management services and some visits for people with cognitive impairments. The agency also wants to temporarily continue telehealth services for emergency department visits and other services to give the industry "time to consider whether these services should be delivered permanently through telehealth outside of the (public health emergency)." CMS asked stakeholders to suggest other telehealth services it should pay for after the public health emergency ends. Comments on the proposed rules are due October 5.

Negotiations Continue on Next COVID-19 Relief Package

Negotiations on the next COVID-19 relief package remain intense as Speaker Nancy Pelosi, Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin and White House Chief of Staff Mark Meadows remain far apart on key policies. Core policy areas, including unemployment insurance, elections and postal service funding, pensions, education, and childcare are up for debate. Despite this conflict, Mnuchin says that if a deal is to be made, it will be ironed out by Friday. Read more about each party's positions in [Politico Playbook](#).

COVID-19 Hospice Respite Care Relief Act of 2020

Yesterday, Senator Sherrod Brown (D-OH) and Senator Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV) introduced the [COVID-19 Hospice Respite Care Relief Act of 2020](#) (S. 4423). This bill would give the Secretary of Health and Human Services the flexibility to allow respite care to be provided outside of inpatient settings, potentially including in the home, and to allow hospice patients to receive up to 15 days of respite care. NHPCO is working closely with the offices of senators Brown and Capito and other stakeholders to support this vital flexibility, which would support hospices in providing care for patients, families, and caregivers. Read the [NHPCO press release](#).

Provider Relief Funding Deadline Extended and Additional Opportunity to Apply

HHS [announced an application deadline extension](#) for the Phase 2 general distribution to Medicaid, Medicaid managed care, Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and dental providers. HHS also plans to allow certain Medicare providers who experienced challenges in the Phase 1 Medicare General Distribution application period a second opportunity to receive funding. Both groups will have until Friday, **August 28, 2020 to apply**. Starting the week of August 10, providers who experienced change in ownership challenges may submit their revenue information, along with documentation proving a change in ownership, by August 28 for consideration for Provider Relief Fund payment. HHS is currently working to address relief payments to new providers in 2020 along with those that have yet to receive any funding for a variety of reasons, including the fact that they may only bill commercially, or do not directly bill for the services they provide under the Medicare and Medicaid programs and thus did not receive any funding yet. For updated info and data, visit: hhs.gov/providerrelief.

Provider Update

FAQs—Application of OIG's Administrative Enforcement Authorities

The OIG is accepting inquiries from the health care community regarding the application of OIG's administrative enforcement authorities, including the Federal anti-kickback statute and civil monetary penalty (CMP) provision prohibiting inducements to beneficiaries (Beneficiary Inducements CMP). Visit the OIG website to read: [FAQs—Application of OIG's Administrative Enforcement Authorities to Arrangements Directly Connected to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) Public Health Emergency](#).

Resources

CDC COVID-19 Response Promising Practices in Health Equity II

In this [video from the CDC](#), presenters from local jurisdictions and national organizations discussed actions taken to mitigate the disproportionate impact on racial and ethnic minorities. Presenters discussed strategies to reduce COVID-19 health inequities for racial and ethnic minorities at the local, state, and national level.

Free COVID-19 and Dementia Videoconference

The Alzheimer's Family Support Center of Cape Cod will present, "Managing Dementia Care in the Time of COVID-19," a free, live videoconference featuring nationally known dementia specialist, Teepa Snow, who will provide practical hands-on training for addressing many of these challenges. This free conference will be held on **Saturday, August 29, 2020** from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. ET. [Register online](#).

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