

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



### NHPCO COVID-19 Update – 08/14/2020

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

“You can't go back and change the beginning, but you can start where you are and change the ending.” — C.S. Lewis

#### Policy

##### **HHS Posts States' COVID-19 Testing Plans**

On August 10, the Department of Health and Human Services posted [each state's plan for testing for COVID-19](#) between July and December. The states were required to provide robust testing plans which include numeric goals. It was requested that states plan for testing 2% of the population per month, and increase this percentage by the fall.

The federal government is helping states reach these goals by providing a number of forms of support, including procuring and distributing testing supplies, matching states with laboratories, connecting the private sector with areas with the most need, and providing technical assistance with plan development and implementation. Additionally, in May, the federal government allocated \$10.5 billion to states, territories, and localities, to help implement these plans. [Read more about requirements for state plans, and federal support for this effort.](#)

##### **Reminder - 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](https://hhs.gov/providerrelief).

## Resources

### Letter to the Editor in JPM

We share a link to a letter written by Drs. Frydman, Choi, and Lindenberger, published in the *Journal of Palliative Medicine*, [Families of COVID-19 Patients Say Goodbye on Video: A Structured Approach to Virtual End-of-Life Conversations](#).

### Latest Faces of Caring Blog

Hospice & Community Care of Rock Hill, South Carolina, launched an educational video series entitled Navigating Children's Grief During Uncertain Times. Learn more about this in the latest Faces of Caring blog, [Virtual Series Offers Tips to Parents to Help Children Who are Grieving During COVID-19](#).

### NHPCO Launches New Podcast featuring Conversations with Edo Banach

During the era of COVID-19, we find ourselves in a time of constant Zoom meetings and phone calls, resiliency as leaders has never been more important. This inspired NHPCO to launch a new podcast series, [Leading Person-Centered Care, Conversations with Edo Banach](#). Launched today, the first guest on the series' inaugural podcast is Jean Accius, AARP Senior Vice President, Global Thought Leadership.