

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



NHPCO COVID-19 Update – 09/11/20

NHPCO has created this update for hospice and palliative care providers to share recent news and helpful links. Please note, these Updates are published when there is helpful news to share.

*“Even the smallest act of service, the simplest act of kindness,
is a way to honor those we lost, a way to reclaim that spirit of unity
that followed 9/11.” — Barack Obama*

Policy Update

COVID Relief Bill Fails in Senate

Yesterday, Senate Republicans attempted to pass a skinny version of a COVID 4.0 bill, [S. 178](#). The bill would have cost about \$500 billion. The bill included an extra \$300 per week in unemployment benefits, which is down from the \$600 weekly increase that expired at the end of July. Additional aid includes a \$257 billion of Paycheck Protection Program funds, an additional \$105 billion for schools and colleges, and liability protections for businesses. The bill failed to reach the necessary 60-vote threshold, stalling with a 52-47 vote largely along party lines.

Back in May House Democrats passed a more than \$3 trillion COVID 4.0 package that the Senate never considered. Negotiations between the White House and Congress for a broader COVID-19 relief bill have stalled, but it is possible some related policies, including health care provisions, could pass as part of a Continuing Resolution later this month, or as a component of an end-of-year package.

Provider Update

CDC Interim Guidance on Implementing Safety Practices

To ensure continuity of operations of essential functions, CDC advises that critical infrastructure workers may be permitted to continue work following potential exposure to COVID-19, provided they remain asymptomatic and additional precautions are implemented to protect them and the community. See the CDC interim guidance, [Implementing Safety Practices for Critical Infrastructure Workers Who May Have Had Exposure to a Person with Suspected or Confirmed COVID-19](#).

People with Certain Medical Conditions (CDC update on 9/11/20)

Revisions were made on July 17, 2020 to reflect [recent data supporting increased risk of severe COVID-19](#) among individuals with cancer. The listed underlying medical conditions in children were also revised to indicate that these conditions might increase risk to better reflect the quality of available data currently. We are learning more about COVID-19 every day, and as new information becomes available.

COVID-19 Pandemic Planning Scenarios (CDC update, 9/10/20)

CDC issued an update on September 10 of [COVID-19 Pandemic Planning Scenarios](#). Key points include:

- The Infection Fatality Ratio parameter has been updated to include age-specific estimates.
- The parameter for Number of Days from Symptom Onset to Seeking Outpatient Care—which was based on influenza care seeking data—has been replaced with the Median Number of Days from Symptom Onset to SARS-CoV-2 Test among SARS-CoV-2 Positive Patients.
- A new parameter for the likelihood of an infection being reported has been added: The Ratio of Estimated Infections to Reported Case Counts

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