



The National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization (NHPCO) is the largest nonprofit membership organization representing hospice and palliative care programs and professionals in the United States. NHPCO's members provide care in more than 4,000 hospice and palliative care locations and for over 70% of the Medicare beneficiaries served by hospice. NHPCO represents hundreds of thousands of professionals and hospice volunteers. NHPCO is committed to improving end-of-life care and expanding access to hospice care with the goal of profoundly enhancing quality of life for people dying in America and their loved ones.

The Hospice Action Network, an NHPCO affiliate and national hospice advocacy organization, is dedicated to preserving and expanding access to hospice care in America. Our mission is to advocate, with one voice, for policies that ensure the best care for patients and families.

We fight to ensure compassionate, high-quality care for all Americans facing serious and life-limiting illnesses by:

- Expanding an ongoing and influential presence on Capitol Hill
- Mobilizing a growing network of Hospice Advocates throughout the nation
- Empowering, through new and innovative techniques, an interactive community connecting the public with Hospice Advocacy



1731 KING STREET
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314

TEL. 703-837-1500 • FAX. 703-837-1233
INFO@NHPCOHAN.ORG

HOSPICE IS A PROGRAM THAT WORKS AND A MEDICARE BENEFIT THAT MATTERS.

Hospice is an interdisciplinary, person-centered healthcare model that works to meet the unique needs of patients and families facing serious illness and the end of life.

Changes to the Medicare Hospice Benefit should remove burdensome regulations that compromise patient care while implementing common-sense reforms that promote value and quality, patient choice and access, and provider accountability.

The value-based model of person-centered care pioneered by hospice and expanded by palliative care should be adopted throughout the care continuum.

NHPCO LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES FOR THE 116TH CONGRESS

STRUCTURAL REFORM OF THE MEDICARE HOSPICE BENEFIT

NHPCO supports reforms that improve access and care for patients and families, including allowing hospice patients to access concurrent curative care, improving upstream access to palliative care, reforming the six-month prognosis barrier, and reducing regulatory hurdles that unnecessarily limit access to hospice services at the end of life.

REDUCTION OF REGULATORY BURDEN WHILE PROTECTING PROGRAM INTEGRITY

NHPCO supports regulations that promote accountability and safety and is eager to work with lawmakers to develop policies and enforcement mechanisms that promote program integrity. Specifically, NHPCO is committed to:

EDUCATION: professional education and training for staff and volunteers is an ongoing commitment that must be part of an organization's culture. Additionally, it is equally as important for the surveyors in charge of overseeing and reviewing hospices are properly trained and educated on hospice rules and regulations. Surveyors should be well-versed in hospice rules and provide guidance to hospices in how to best abide by those rules. High-quality care, regulatory compliance, and clinical excellence require ongoing education for all parties involved.

TRANSPARENCY: a patient or family member must be confident that a Medicare-certified hospice will provide high-quality care and they should be able to access reliable, useful, and understandable data to assist them in making an educated choice.

OVERSIGHT: We support increased oversight for new and poor performing hospices. We recognize the need for smart oversight that does not jeopardize access to care by burdening providers with excessive regulation. We are prepared to work with the Administration and Congress to make it happen.

COVERAGE FOR COMMUNITY-BASED PALLIATIVE CARE SERVICES

Establishing reimbursement for statutorily-defined, community-based palliative care will help ensure the right care is provided at the right time.

EXPANDED ACCESS TO HOSPICE SERVICES

Education and training programs can stem provider shortage issues by encouraging more individuals to pursue a profession in the hospice and palliative care fields. NHPCO also supports removing barriers that limit hospice and palliative care access in both rural and urban communities.

SUPPORTED LEGISLATION:

- The Palliative Care and Hospice Education and Training Act (S. 2080)
- The Rural Access to Hospice Act (H.R. 2594/S. 1190)
- The Provider Training in Palliative Care Act (S. 1921)
- Strengthening Innovation in Medicare and Medicaid Act (H.R. 5741)