



NHPCO NewsBriefs

February 3, 2022

- New Survey Readiness Toolkit
- NHF Seeking Auction Items
- Vaccination Guidance for Surveyors
- CMS Encourages Booster Shots
- Part D and Hospice Pilot
- Important QC Dates
- BiteSizeQI for 2022
- Response Time for QC Emails
- HGRP December Forum Materials
- LAC Room Block Closes Next Week
- WHV Annual Survey Now Open
- Call for National Grief Strategy
- MyNHPCO Chats and Recording

Track the right data to manage med costs.

DOWNLOAD WHITEPAPER

enclara
PHARMACIA

Advertisement

February is National Black History Month and NHPCO salutes our nation's Black history. The Diversity Advisory Council released the updated [Black and African-American Outreach Guide](#) last year and NHPCO invites you to access this resource in your efforts to serve all communities of color. Find additional resources at nhpco.org/diversity.

Remember to log in to the NHPCO website before you click a member-only link to easily access that resource or web page.

TOP STORIES

NEW! Survey Readiness and Response Toolkit

NHPCO's [Survey Readiness and Response Toolkit](#) provides comprehensive support to hospices before, during, and after a hospice Medicare survey. The toolkit includes eighteen Condition of Participation (CoP) compliance guides along with nineteen supplemental resources to address every step of the survey. In addition, the toolkit will be available as one comprehensive document or as separate standalone supplemental resources. For questions, please reach out to regulatory@nhpco.org.

 AXXESS Hospice



NHF Seeking Auction Items for Gala

In conjunction with LAC22, the National Hospice Foundation will hold its annual Gala at the Gaylord on Tuesday, March 8, from 7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. ET. NHF is seeking donations of items, special trips, and unique experiences to be used in the silent and live auctions. You don't have to be attending the gala to donate, and the silent auction will be held online. [Visit the Gala webpage](#) to download more information about the auction, as well as sponsorships and tickets, or contact [Alex Slippen](#) for assistance.

REGULATORY & COMPLIANCE

CMS Issues Vaccination Expectations Guidance for Surveyors

On January 25, 2022, [CMS released guidance](#) (PDF) clarifying expectations around surveyor vaccination. CMS is expanding on the exclusionary criteria for all surveyors (including CLIA and Life Safety Code surveyors) entering provider and supplier locations to include vaccination status. Surveyors who are not fully vaccinated (except with some exemptions) should not participate as part of the onsite survey team performing federal oversight of certified providers and suppliers (including accreditation surveys performed under an AO's deeming authority).

CMS Not Shifting Vaccine Mandate Requirement but Encourages Boosters

The CMS health care vaccine mandate rule's definition is consistent with CDC's definition that to be fully vaccinated an individual needs to complete their primary vaccine series, a CMS spokesperson told *Inside Health Policy*. **But CMS also says it "strongly encourages" health care workers to be up to date on their vaccines and get boosters when they are eligible, even though the mandate doesn't require them.** "For the purposes of this rule, documented receipt of additional or booster doses is not currently needed for staff who have completed a COVID-19 primary vaccination series authorized or licensed by the FDA, or listed by the WHO for emergency use," the CMS spokesperson added.

Part D and Hospice Pilot

CMS Part D has contracted with RelayHealth to design a hospice election notification system so that Part D plans will know of the hospice election in a more timely way. NHPCO and NAHC recruited three hospice EMR vendors, Axxess, MatrixCare and Netsmart, to be a part of the pilot to transmit hospice election information through RelayHealth to Part D plans. The three EMR vendors are all recruiting hospice providers to be part of this project [who submit NOE data electronically to Medicare using the 837I transaction standard](#). As a part of the pilot project, your hospice will have the opportunity to be part of solving a difficult communication issue for hospice and Part D. The pilot is also interested in hospices who use a clearinghouse to submit electronic NOE data, as well. When this project moves from the pilot phase to final, testing for the various ways that NOE information gets into the system will be important. Those interested should send an email to regulatory@nhpco.org; NHPCO will send your email of interest to the EMR vendor.

QUALITY

Important Dates for Quality Connections

Quality Connections participants, please note the following upcoming dates and deadlines.

- February 6: All 2021 QC activities due
- February 11: Year-End Evaluation Survey due
- February 15: QC Portal resets for 2022
- March 4: All 2021 participants will receive their ring logo

BiteSizeQI for 2022

In 2021, all 50 licenses for BiteSizeQI were spoken for, but not all those signed up actively worked on a BiteSizeQI project. As we begin this second year of Quality Connections, we ask that those who choose to participate in BiteSizeQI commit to meeting the following expectations. Email qualityconnections@nhpco.org with questions.

- Create at least one "project charter" by May 31, 2022.
- Initiation of "project charter" by March 15
- Demonstrate progress toward completion of project during Q3
- Report on completion/non-completion of project by January 31, 2023

Response Time for QC Emails

Our team is receiving an extremely high volume of requests for assistance related to Quality Connections and NHPCO performance measures. Please note that our team will respond to requests for assistance within 48 hours. Our ability to resolve some issues, however, may take up to 5-10 business days as we work with those who have built the survey and program platforms to fully assess and identify the best solution. We appreciate your patience during this time.

Hospice HGRP December Forum Materials Available

On Thursday, December 16, 2021, CMS hosted the December 2021 HGRP Forum to provide information on the new Star Ratings for the CAHPS® Hospice Survey. Materials from this HGRP Forum, including a recording of the presentation, are now available in the Downloads section of the [Provider and Stakeholder Engagement page](#) of the CMS website.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT & EDUCATION

LAC Room Block Closes Next Week

All onsite activities for the [2022 Leadership & Advocacy Conference](#) will take place at the Gaylord National Resort and Conventional Center in National Harbor, Maryland. It's just outside of Washington, DC and across the Potomac River from Reagan National Airport, making this a convenient conference home. The many popular shops, restaurants, and entertainment venues of National Harbor make it a destination of its own. The LAC22 **room block closes on February 11, 2022**, so make your hotel accommodations while space is still available at our conference rate.

WE HONOR VETERANS

WHV Annual Survey Now Open

The WHV team is continuing to focus our energies on creating the most useful resources and tools for our partners. We worked with our colleagues at the Department of Veterans Affairs to

create a short (we promise!) survey to gauge where our partners are at and continue to create a supportive virtual space for everyone to access. [The survey can be taken here](#) and will remain open through **Friday, February 11**. We genuinely appreciate your time and input. Please reach out to veterans@nhpco.org if you have any questions.

ADVOCACY & LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

Call for National Grief Strategy

NHPCO and its advocacy affiliate the Hospice Action Network worked with Congressman Joe Morelle on a letter to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) calling for a new national strategy on grief. [Read the press release](#).

MyNHPCO ONLINE COMMUNITY

Upcoming MyNHPCO Chats Not to Miss

Register online for free chats for NHPCO members; sign in to MyNHPCO see chat information. A reminder that continuing education is not available for our MyNHPCO community chats.

- [Social Media Q&A](#)
The February Development/PR/Marketing community chat will be in a Q&A format with social media expert Jess Columbo. **Tuesday, February 8 at 1:00 p.m. ET**
- [The End-of-Life Doula](#)
End-of-life doulas are non-medical companions that provide holistic services to the dying. Join the Nurse/CNA community chat to learn more about how they can support the hospice team. **Tuesday, February 8 at 3:00 p.m. ET**
- [Cultural Considerations and Spiritual Care at End of Life](#)
Rev. C. Brandon Brewer will host the February Spiritual Caregiver community chat about cultural considerations. **Wednesday, February 9 at 3:00 p.m. ET**
- [Trauma-Informed Care: The Basic Principles](#)
Join this month's Professional Education and Organizational Development community chat to learn about trauma-informed care. **Tuesday, February 15 at 1:00 p.m. ET**
- [Am I Making the Right Decision? The Role of Ethics in Volunteer Engagement](#)
This chat will review ethical core values and principles for volunteer engagement, a decision-making process for navigating real-life ethical dilemmas, and tips on incorporating ethics into your organization. **Wednesday, February 16 at 3:00 p.m. ET**

In Case You Missed It – Chat Recording on MyNHPCO

- [Complex Military Trauma: Finding Humility when Serving Veteran Populations](#)
January 26 Social Work Community Chat

The [full chat schedule](#) is available on MyNHPCO.

A promotional banner for the 2022 Leadership & Advocacy Conference. The banner features a blue background with a white geometric logo on the left. The text is arranged in a clean, modern layout. The main title is in large, bold, white letters. Below it, the dates for the preconference, main conference, and on-demand content availability are listed in smaller white text. The location is also mentioned at the bottom right. A URL is provided in a white box at the bottom left.

 NHPCO

2022 LEADERSHIP & ADVOCACY CONFERENCE

Preconference March 5-6
Main Conference March 7-9
On-demand Content Available March 7 – May 31

NHPCO.ORG/LAC2022

Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center, National Harbor, MD

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NewsBriefs is a weekly publication provided to members of the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization.

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