

NEW EBOOK

Safer Prescribing: Avoiding Common Adverse Drug Events in Palliative Care



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Tip: Log in to the [NHPCO website](#) first to easily access member-only links.

TOP STORIES

2024 Hospice Manager Development (MDP) Program Schedule

Managing Conflict in the Workplace - March 4 – April 1: Conflict is part of human nature; each of us brings unique values, goals, beliefs, ideas, and needs to our work. In this Level II module, participants will learn about the nature and styles of conflict, the skills needed to address conflict, and effective strategies for managing it. The course is now [open for registration](#).





More to come in 2024:

- [The Interdisciplinary Team: Key Skills for Hospice Managers](#): May 6 – June 3
- [MDP Foundational Course](#): May 20 – July 1

About MDP: The Hospice Manager Development Program is the only comprehensive management training program that provides hospice-specific information and helps managers develop the skills they need to meet the challenges and changes they face managing programs, systems, and people. Visit the Hospice MDP [Upcoming Courses schedule](#) for more information, rates, and registration.

NHPCO Submits Comments on CMS VBID RFI

On Friday, February 16, [NHPCO submitted comments](#) in response to [CMS' Request for Information for the Value-Based Insurance Design Model](#). The comments focused on prioritizing patient and provider experiences, emphasized the need for better and more transparent data, and urged CMS to move forward with extreme caution as it related to network requirements and prior authorizations. Thank you to those who shared your VBID experience; your feedback was instrumental in crafting our response. NHPCO also led a group of hospice providers and professionals in [highlighting key issues for CMS](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 26: [Quality Connections Walkthrough](#)

February 26: Webinar – [Substance Use Disorder Miniseries: Substance Use Disorder Treatment Approaches and Modalities in Seriously-Ill Patients](#)

February 27: CEO/Executive Director Chat – [VBID/MA](#)

February 29: [Data and Surveys Overview Session](#)

February 29: [Spiritual Caregiver Community Peer-Led Support Group Meeting](#)

February 29: Webinar – [Substance Use Disorder Miniseries: Substance Use Disorder Considerations in the Hospice Setting](#)

March 4: Hospice MDP - [Managing Conflict in the Workplace](#)

March 4: Webinar - [Substance Use Disorder Miniseries: Substance Use Disorder Considerations in Palliative Care](#)

March 5: [We Honor Veterans Office Hours](#)

March 6: Bereavement Professional Chat – [Grief in Dementia](#)

March 7: Project ECHO Dementia Care Miniseries: [Best Practices and Beyond](#)

REGULATORY & COMPLIANCE

Fiscal Year 2025 Hospice Wage Index Proposed Rule Now Under OMB Review

The fiscal year (FY) 2025 Hospice Wage Index, Payment Rate Update, and Quality Reporting Requirements (CMS-1810) proposed rule is now [under review](#) at the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). This proposed rule is on track to be released in late March to early April.

CMS Announces Call for Nominations for 2024 Health Equity Award

CMS has announced a call for nominations for the [2024 CMS Health Equity Award](#). This award is intended to acknowledge organizations that demonstrate reduced disparities in healthcare quality, access, or outcomes among vulnerable populations, such as racial and ethnic minorities, individuals with disabilities, sexual and gender minorities, and those living in rural areas. CMS will recognize awardees at the [CMS Health Equity Conference](#) May 29-30. [Nomination forms](#) should be submitted to omh@cms.hhs.gov, with the subject 'ATTN: CMS Health Equity Award' by March 13.

QUALITY

NHPCO Data and Surveys Overview Session

Are you interested in learning more about the various survey and data collection resources included with your NHPCO membership? [Join us](#) on Thursday, February 29 at 2 p.m. ET as we explore the range of NHPCO's Data and Surveys, including the Survey of Team Attitudes and Relationships (STAR), Measures of Excellence (MOE), and Evaluation of Grief Support Services (EGSS). This session will provide attendees with an overview of each resource, including practical implementation tips, dashboards and benchmarking resources associated with each survey, and time for Q&A. [Register here](#) or visit [NHPCO Data and Surveys](#) for more information.

Project ECHO Miniseries: Best Practices in Dementia Care

NHPCO, in collaboration with the Alzheimer's Association, will host a new [Project ECHO miniseries](#) beginning March 7. This seven-session weekly series focuses on implementation of evidence-based dementia care, specifically in serious illness and at the end of life, and will support and enhance the ability of providers across the continuum of care to understand the unique needs of persons living with various facets of cognitive impairment. Members are encouraged to [register for the miniseries](#), which will be hosted via Project ECHO's dynamic iECHO platform, or reach out to projectecho@nhpco.org with questions.

Quality Connections 2024 Program Year – Enrollment Open

The 2024 Quality Connections program has officially kicked off! This year's program includes over twenty-five percent new or updated content, including activities related to advocacy and legislative action, survey preparedness, patient safety, and more. If your organization is interested in participating, email QualityConnections@nhpco.org to get started or visit the [Quality Connections webpage](#) for more information. New participants are also encouraged to join the [Quality Connections Walk-Through](#) on February 26 at 2 p.m. ET.

NHPCO Submits Comments on Proposed Quality Measures

NHPCO submitted comments to the Partnership for Quality Measurement (PQM) on the [2023-24 Pre-Rulemaking Measure Review](#) regarding the potential inclusion of three measures to the Hospice Quality Reporting Program: Timely Reassessment of Pain Impact, Timely Reassessment

of Non-Pain Impact, and CAHPS® Hospice Survey. Comments included member feedback regarding pain and symptom reassessment practices, the use of standardized tools, and recommended modifications to the Hospice CAHPS® Survey. For more information on NHPCO's comments, please reach out to quality@nhpco.org.

PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION & DEVELOPMENT

New Online Learning Courses - Now Available

NHPCO's online learning covers a variety of topics including the latest in clinical, regulatory, and palliative care. Access popular presentations and bring nationally acclaimed speakers directly to your organization for a fraction of the cost. Explore our full [online course catalog](#) to see a variety of topics in a self-paced environment.

Integrative Therapies in Hospice and Palliative Care Program is a nine-part program for multidisciplinary health professionals on integrative approaches in hospice and palliative care. The course covers the evolution of the concept of integrative care in the US, explains how integrative therapies share a holistic and multidimensional approach with palliative care, and examines the concept of "evidence" in making informed decisions about the use of integrative therapies. Course topics include:

- Introduction to Integrative Palliative Care
- Acupuncture
- Aromatherapy
- Biofield Therapies
- Expressive Arts
- Massage and Touch Interventions
- Mind-Body and Contemplative Therapies
- Movement-Based Therapies
- Transforming the Culture of Care

The materials were created by the Integrative Palliative Care Institute. In a randomized controlled trial with 170 physicians, nurses, social workers, and other palliative care professionals, this program led to significant changes in practice behaviors that promote integrative care. [Sign up now!](#)

WE HONOR VETERANS

We Honor Veterans Office Hours

Join the We Honor Veterans team for Office Hours on Tuesday, March 5, 4-4:30p.m. ET. WHV participants of all levels are welcome to bring questions regarding level reports, website support, and more. [Sign up today!](#) Check out the [WHV Events Calendar](#) to find out about other Veteran-centric events hosted by our partners.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, & INCLUSION

Rita and Alex Hillman Foundation Emergent Innovation Program

The Rita and Alex Hillman Foundation has an open call for applications to their Emergent Innovation grant program with a focus on equity. The [Hillman Emergent Innovation](#) (HEI) program provides grants to accelerate the development of bold, nursing-driven interventions that improve the health and healthcare of marginalized populations. These populations include Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC), the economically disadvantaged, LGBTQ+ people, people experiencing homelessness, rural populations, immigrant and refugee populations, and other groups that encounter obstacles to accessing quality healthcare services.

Rural Health and Safety Education Competitive Grants Program

This grant opportunity from the [National Institute of Food and Agriculture](#) supports community-based outreach education programs that provide individuals and families with information on the value of good health at any age, motivation to take more responsibility for their own health, and information regarding rural environmental health issues that directly impact human health. If interested, the deadline to apply is March 14, by 5 p.m. ET.

Funding Opportunity: Nursing Workforce and Healthy Work Environments

The 2024 Health Equity and Nursing Innovations Fund: Nursing Workforce and Healthy Work Environments AARP, the American Association of Critical-Care Nurses, and the Future of Nursing: [Campaign for Action](#) seek to fund projects that strengthen and diversify the nursing workforce, expand innovative nurse recruitment and retention strategies, and create and sustain healthy work environments. Awards of up to \$25,000 will be granted and administered by the AARP Center for Health Equity through NursingSM (A-CHEN). If interested, please submit your proposals by April 5 at 10 p.m. ET.

MyNHPCO COMMUNITIES

Upcoming Chats Not to Miss

As a member of NHPCO, you have free access to specialized chats with peers from across the country through the [MyNHPCO Communities](#), including:

- [VBID/MA](#) - Join the MyNHPCO CEO/Executive Director Community chat on Tuesday, February 27 at 1 p.m. ET to hear from NHPCO's [Rory Farrand, APRN-BC, MS, MA, MSN](#), VP of Palliative and Advanced Care & [Alix Ware, JD, MPH](#), Director of Health Policy, as they review highlights from the most recent VBID-Hospice Benefit Component report, outline changes to the program that went into effect in 2024, and discuss potential impacts to hospice and palliative care providers as the program continues to evolve through 2030.
- [Spiritual Caregiver Community Peer-Led Support Group](#) - Don't forget to register for the MyNHPCO Spiritual Caregiver Community peer-led support group on Thursday, February 29 at 3:30 p.m. to join a peer-led support group with a focus on spiritual care leadership and mentoring. This group provides a safe space for guidance, enhancing professional performance and development, providing mentoring and leadership direction, and supporting all clinicians who provide spiritual care in an interdisciplinary setting.
- [Grief in Dementia](#) - Register for the MyNHPCO Bereavement Professional Community chat on Wednesday, March 6, 2 – 3 p.m. ET as we discuss the challenges of grief for someone with dementia, what should be considered while sharing about the death of a loved one to the individual with dementia, and the best ways to support grief.

Chat Recordings Now Available

MyNHPCO Community chats are recorded and posted for your convenience. Here are the recent chat recordings now available:

- **Development/PR/Marketing Chat Recording** – [Open Office Hours for Development/Public Relations/Marketing Professionals](#)
- **Nurse Chat Recording** – [Good Boundaries and Self Care Go Hand in Hand](#)
- **Spiritual Caregiver Chat Recording** – [Going Home: Exploring African American Spirituality at End of Life](#)
- **Professional Education and Organizational Development Chat Recording** – [The Power of Storytelling](#)
- **Volunteer Management Chat Recording** – [Volunteer Love and Recognition](#)

The full [chat schedule](#) is available on MyNHPCO. You must be logged in to access details on MyNHPCO Chats. Please also note that to view some chat recordings, you may have to join the

appropriate MyNHPCO community. Chats are a unique opportunity for professional communities to learn together; continuing education credits are not available.

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

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