



NHPCO IDC2024
Virtual • Interdisciplinary Conference

LIVE ONLINE EVENTS
April 15 – 17

ON-DEMAND CONTENT
April 15 – June 15

> REGISTER TODAY <
nhpc.org/IDC2024

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

TOP STORIES

The 2024 NHPCO Virtual Interdisciplinary Conference Starts Monday!

We are less than one week away from the [2024 NHPCO Virtual Interdisciplinary Conference \(IDC2024\)](#), the premier conference for hospice and palliative care teams and individuals focusing on opportunities and challenges on the front lines. It is not too late to join us for live, online events from April 15-17. Attending IDC2024 is a great opportunity to hear from our three, insightful [keynote speakers](#) and earn [CE/CME credits](#) for live and on-demand sessions. Can't join the live event? Don't worry. On-demand content is available through June 15. Learn more about IDC2024 and [register today!!](#)

 **Axxess PalliativeCare**



NHPCO Joint Webinar on Upcoming Physician Enrollment Requirements

Beginning May 1, 2024, physicians must be enrolled in or validly opted out of Medicare to certify a patient's terminal illness under the Medicare hospice benefit. Last week, NHPCO partnered with the National Association for Home Care & Hospice to provide a webinar on upcoming physician enrollment requirements. NHPCO members who were unable to attend may still access the webinar recording by [registering here](#). This webinar is free for NHPCO members, although you will need to use the code [NHPCO-2024](#) to receive the free registration. Please reach out to regulatory@nhpc.org with any questions.

Request for Information (RFI) on Potential Hospice Quality Reporting Program Social Determinants of Health

On April 4, CMS published the [FY 2025 Hospice Wage Index and Payment Rate Update](#). With the proposed rule, CMS asks for feedback on different topics as they develop the final rule for FY 2025 and future payment policies. These requests are an opportunity to provide CMS with "on-the-ground" experiences in providing care to Medicare beneficiaries. NHPCO requests information from providers regarding the **RFI on Potential Hospice Quality Reporting Program Social Determinants of Health Items** included in the proposed rule. Please complete the survey by May 10. If you have questions, email quality@nhpc.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 12: [Membership Orientation Call](#)

April 12: [Palliative Care Office Hours](#)

April 15 – 17: [2024 NHPCO Virtual Interdisciplinary Conference: Focusing on Opportunities and Challenges on the Front Lines*](#)

April 18: [We Honor Veterans Office Hours](#)

April 18: Project ECHO Dementia Care Miniseries: [Best Practices and Beyond](#)

April 22: [Survey of Team Attitudes and Relationships \(STAR\) Walkthrough](#)

April 23: Finance/Information Systems Community Chat – [To Outsource, or Not to Outsource and What to Do Once You Decide](#)

April 24: Social Work Community Chat - [The Art of Documentation: What is Necessary and What Is Too Much When Telling a Patient's Story](#)

April 24: Clinical and Operations Management Community Chat - [Improving CAHPS Survey Scores](#)

April 25: [Spiritual Caregiver Community Peer-Led Support Group Meeting](#)

April 25: Webinar - FY 2025 Hospice Wage Index and Quality Reporting Requirements Proposed Rule

REGULATORY & COMPLIANCE

Hospice PEPPER Distribution Delayed Through Fall 2024

There remains a temporary pause for the distribution of comparative billing reports (CBRs) and Program for Evaluating Payment Patterns Electronic Reports (PEPPERS) through the fall of 2024. This means hospices will not be able to access their PEPPERS in April 2024. CMS has indicated the agency will release a Request for Information (RFI) in the coming months to improve the quality and accessibility of these reports. Reach out to CBRPEPPERInquiries@cms.hhs.gov with any questions.

QUALITY

HOPE Updates

CMS provided updates on the future of the Hospice Outcomes and Patient Evaluation (HOPE) in the [FY 2025 Hospice Wage Index and Payment Rate Update Quality Reporting Proposed Rule](#). Members are encouraged to review the NHPCO Regulatory Alert linked above and visit [CMS HQRP: HOPE](#) to download the Draft HOPE v1.00 and Draft HOPE Guidance Manual. Please reach out to quality@nhpco.org with questions.

Quality Connections

End of First Quarter: The first quarter of the Quality Connections (QC) 2024 program year ended on March 31. All activities completed through that date will be included in the year-end [Achievement Map](#) update in mid-April. Organizations that have earned rings or completed the program will receive an achievement logo to add to their online and print collateral, demonstrating their commitment to quality improvement.

QC Evaluation Surveys: QC participants are asked to complete the Pre- and Post-Assessment surveys located on their dashboard landing page. These evaluations provide important information in planning future Quality Connections offerings.

About QC: QC is NHPCO's core program for continuous quality improvement for hospice providers and professionals. Visit the [Quality Connections page](#) or reach out to qualityconnections@nhpco.org to learn more.

PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION & DEVELOPMENT

The Interdisciplinary Team: Key Skills for Hospice Managers | May 6 – June 3

Skillful and well-coordinated teams require strong leaders. A manager's ability to move teams through various stages of development, positive problem-solving, and effective team meetings requires vision and expertise. This Manager Development Program (MDP) Level II module will provide "key skills for hospice managers" who believe the interdisciplinary team can make or break exceptional care. [The course is now open for registration.](#)

More to come in 2024:

- [MDP Foundational Course](#): May 20 – July 1
- [Managing Workplace Negativity](#): June 3 – 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.

Join the Dialogue! 2024 NHPCO Annual Leadership Conference Call for Proposals

The Call for Proposals for the [2024 NHPCO Annual Leadership Conference](#) (ALC2024) is open! Conference topics fall into one of the following categories: Advancing the Care Continuum, Developing Organizational Leaders, and Organizational Performance Improvement. The Conference Planning Committee is seeking interactive content that highlights lessons learned, innovative topics, and tangible solutions providers can apply to their organizations. Proposals are due by April 26, 11:59 p.m. ET, with notification of acceptance in June. [Review the guidelines and submit your proposal](#). Still have questions? NHPCO's Education team held a Call for Proposals Office Hour via Zoom. Watch the recording on the [ALC2024 webpage](#).

MEMBER UPDATES

Don't Eclipse Your Star Volunteers by Forgetting to Nominate Them

There are only three weeks left to nominate your star volunteers for the [Volunteers Are the Foundation of Hospice Awards](#)! Award categories include Patient/Family Service, Organizational Support, Specialized Volunteer Service, Young Leader, and We Honor Veterans Volunteer Service. Nominations are due by April 30. Visit [Volunteers Are the Foundation of Hospice Awards](#) to get started.

Membership Orientation Call

Whether you're new to NHPCO or need a refresher, we're glad you're here. Join NHPCO's monthly membership orientation calls on the second Friday of the month from 2 to 3 p.m. ET to connect, exchange valuable insights, and maximize the benefits of the NHPCO membership. Your membership matters to us, and we're committed to supporting you every step of the way. [Register for the April 12 orientation call](#).

Make the Most of Your Membership

Sign up for NHPCO's [Monthly Membership Tips](#) today! Learn about the latest offerings and any hidden gems you may have missed.

PALLIATIVE AND ADVANCED CARE

Palliative Care Office Hours – Friday, April 12, 12 p.m. ET

The VBID Hospice Component is going away. What might that mean for palliative care? What questions do you have about this change? We may not have all the answers, but we are sure many of your colleagues have similar questions. Let's get together to talk about them, and anything else that is on your mind! While [registration is required](#), having an "official question" is not. All NHPCO members are welcome. We hope you will join us.

Top Ten Tips Palliative Care Clinicians Should Know About Dignity-Conserving Practice

The acknowledgment and promotion of dignity is commonly viewed as the cornerstone of person-centered care. Although the preservation of dignity is often highlighted as a key tenet of palliative care provision, the concept of dignity and its implications for practice remain nebulous to many clinicians. There are several principles of care that can enhance dignity, including

affirming the person's value, viewing whole persons apart from their disease, addressing pain and discomfort, dealing with fears and anxieties, and helping people maintain a feeling of control and independence. [This article](#), written by a team of palliative care specialists and dignity researchers, and published in the current edition of the *Journal of Palliative Medicine*, offers 10 evidence-based tips to facilitate the implementation of dignity-centered care in serious illness.

Fast Fact #107: Palliative Sedation for Refractory Suffering

Fast Fact #106 covered the decision process and patient selection considerations for controlled sedation for refractory suffering at end of life. This [companion Fast Fact](#) delves into best practices for the medication administration of controlled sedation including what needs to be considered prior to and upon initiation, and how to maintain sedation. Check out the [full library of PCNOW's helpful facts](#).

WE HONOR VETERANS

We Honor Veterans Office Hours

Join the WHV team for Office Hours on Thursday, April 18, 12-12:30 p.m. ET. WHV participants of all levels are welcome to bring questions regarding level reports, website support, and more. [Sign up today!](#) Stay updated on all events hosted by WHV partners via the [Events Calendar](#).

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, & INCLUSION

Measures and Methods to Advance Research on Minority Health and Health Disparities-Related Constructs

The Measures and Methods to Advance Research on Minority Health and Health Disparities-Related Constructs [grant](#), funded by the National Institute of Health, supports research that will advance the measurement and assessment of complex constructs relevant to minority health and health disparities. If interested in applying for this grant, the deadline is May 7.

WHO Operational Framework for Monitoring Social Determinants of Health Equity

The World Health Organization (WHO) developed the [Operational Framework for Monitoring Social Determinants of Health Equity](#) to measure, assess, and address the social determinants of health and health inequities from a cross-sectorial perspective. The framework provides countries with critical guidance on monitoring the social determinants of health and actions addressing them, and how to use data for policy action across sectors to improve health equity.

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:

- [To Outsource, or Not to Outsource and What to Do Once You Decide](#) - You're invited to the MyNHPCO Finance/Information Systems Community for our upcoming chat on Tuesday, April 23, 2-3 p.m. ET. We'll explore the various factors that can lead to outsourcing services, delve into the intricacies of selecting a vendor for outsourcing, and learn about effective methods to monitor and evaluate their performance.
- [The Art of Documentation: What is Necessary and What Is Too Much When Telling a Patient's Story](#) - Register for the MyNHPCO Social Work Community chat on Wednesday, April 24, 1-2 p.m. ET. Panelists will discuss key components to include when documenting patient and family stories, considerations when documenting sensitive patient information such as domestic violence, financial exploitation, and suicidal ideation, and considerations on the impact of patient and family access to patient records and social work documentation.

- [Improving CAHPS Survey Scores](#) - Join the MyNHPCO Clinical and Operations Management Committee on Wednesday, April 24, 3-4 p.m. ET, for a robust discussion and open forum regarding CAHPS, HQRP, and Care Compare. Discover the various surveys and comparisons that intersect with payment. Uncover strategies to boost your scores and sidestep compliance pitfalls.
- [Spiritual Caregiver Community Peer-Led Support Group](#) - Don't forget to register for the MyNHPCO Spiritual Caregiver Community Peer-Led Support Group on Thursday, April 25, at 3:30 p.m. ET to join a group focused on spiritual care leadership and mentoring. This group provides a safe space for receiving guidance, enhancing professional performance and development, providing mentoring and leadership direction, and supporting all clinicians who provide spiritual care in an interdisciplinary setting.

Chat Recordings Now Available

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

- **Integrative & Rehabilitation Therapies Chat Recording** - [Assessing and Working with Spiritual Needs in Hospice Music Therapy](#)
- **Development/PR/Marketing Chat Recording** - [CMS Survey Changes and How to Navigate Them](#)
- **Spiritual Caregiver Chat Recording** - [Exploring the Four Domains of Spiritual Health & Wellbeing](#)

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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