

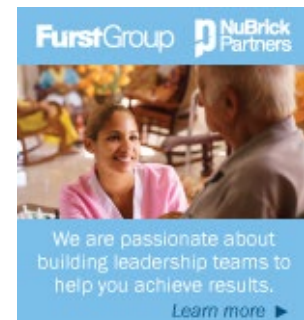


Tip: Log in to the [NHPCO website](#) first to easily access member-only links.

**TOP STORIES**

**Congressional Briefing on the Value of Hospice**

Earlier today, NHPCO, the National Association for Home Health and Hospice Care (NAHC), and NORC at the University of Chicago presented key findings from the Value of Hospice in Medicare study on Capitol Hill to congressional staff. The findings from the study, published in March of this year, show that patients' use of hospice care contributed to \$3.5 billion in savings for Medicare in 2019, while providing multiple benefits to patients, families, and caregivers.



Speakers at today's event included: *Dianne Munevar*, VP of Health Care Strategy, NORC; *Dr. Joseph Shega*, Chief Medical Officer, VITAS; *Susan Llyod*, CEO, Delaware Hospice. [Learn more about the Value of Hospice in Medicare study.](#)

**CMS CY 2024 Home Health Proposed Rule – NHPCO & NAHC Combined Listening Session**

On Friday, August 4 from 1-2 p.m. ET, NHPCO and NAHC will be hosting a joint listening session for members to provide feedback on the Calendar Year (CY) 2024 Home Health Prospective Payment System Rate Update and Quality Reporting Program Requirements proposed rule. The goal of the listening session will be to hear from providers on the potential impacts of the proposed rule, so come with comments and questions. Please [register for the event](#). To share any questions or comments before the listening session, please email [regulatory@nhpco.org](mailto:regulatory@nhpco.org). Comments are due on August 29, 2023.

The proposed rule includes the implementation of the hospice information dispute resolution (IDR) and Special Focus Program along with new provider enrollment provisions. For a full analysis of the proposed rule, NHPCO issued [a regulatory alert on July 5](#).

**Support the Hospice Workforce! Now Accepting Auction Donations for the 2023 NHF Gala**

Auction items and package donations are now being accepted for the [2023 NHF Gala](#); held in conjunction with the [2023 NHPCO Annual Leadership Conference](#). Play a role in raising funds for NHF's [Hospice Workforce Emergency Support Fund](#) by contributing to the live, in-person, or online silent auctions. Donations can range from a handmade piece of art, jewelry, a condominium stay, sports memorabilia, concert or sports tickets, etc. All contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. If you're interested in donating or want to explore your options, [see the NHF website](#) for more information. The NHF team is grateful for your support!

## NHPCO Earns Joint Accreditation

NHPCO has been reviewed by Joint Accreditation for Interprofessional Continuing Education™ and awarded Joint Accreditation through 2027 as a provider of interprofessional continuing education (IPCE) by and for the healthcare team. Joint Accreditation ensures that continuing education for healthcare teams serves the needs of patients and the public, and is designed to be independent, free from commercial bias, based on valid content, relevant, and effective in improving the quality and safety of care delivered by the team. Explore the accredited educational offerings from online learning and webinars to in-person conferences on the [NHPCO Education webpage](#).

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

**July 28:** [MOE Q2 Data Submission Deadline](#)

**August 1:** Chat – [Part II – Building a Hospice EOL Doula Program](#)

**August 2:** Chat – [In the Mourning Store: American Grief and the Civil War](#)

**August 4:** [CMS CY 2024 Home Health Proposed Rule | NHPCO/NAHC Combined Listening Session](#)

**August 7:** Hospice MDP – [Managing Workplace Negativity](#)

**August 8:** [Quality/Regulatory Office Hours](#)

**August 8:** Chat – [Strengthening Your Brand to Improve Average Daily Census](#)

**August 8:** Chat – [I Cannot Take Another Death!](#)

**August 9:** Chat – [The Ultimate Betrayal: Spiritual Aspects of Body Image at End of Life](#)

**August 10:** Webinar – [Hospice Basics for New Employees](#)

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## REGULATORY & COMPLIANCE

### OCR Enforcement Discretion for HIPAA Telehealth Compliance Ending

On April 11, 2023, the HHS Office of Civil Rights (OCR) issued a "[Notification of Enforcement Discretion](#)" that provides "a transition period for health care providers using telehealth to make any changes to their operations that are needed to provide telehealth in a private and secure manner to be in compliance with the HIPAA Rules." This discretion will end on August 9, 2023. Providers must have HIPAA compliant telehealth implemented by this date. For more information, see [NHPCO's regulatory alert](#).

### Revised Form I-9 Available

On August 1, 2023, a new Employment Eligibility Verification, Form I-9, will be available on the [U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services official website](#). The new form is designed to be fillable and shorter in length while still allowing standalone supplemental sections for specific situations and allows verification for remote examination of documentation. All employers must use the update form by November 1, 2023. These updates come along with the [sunsetting of COVID-19 flexibilities](#) on July 31, 2023.

### CMS Issues CY 2024 Physician Fee Schedule Proposed Rule

On July 13, CMS posted the [Calendar Year \(CY\) 2024 Physician Fee Schedule proposed rule](#) for public inspection to the Federal Register. This proposed rule implements the provisions in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023, adding marriage and family therapists, or mental health counselors, as members of the hospice interdisciplinary team. NHPCO will begin preparing formal comments and welcomes thoughts, input, and suggestions during this process. Comments are due on **September 11, 2023**.

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## QUALITY

### **Measures of Excellence (MOE) – Q2 Data Submission**

MOE data for the second quarter, April through June 2023, is due on Friday, July 28. Please reach out to [moe@nhpco.org](mailto:moe@nhpco.org) with any questions. The [Measures of Excellence \(MOE\)](#) is a quarterly data collection tool and dashboard that organizations may use to track operational and clinical data to inform high quality care. The quarterly MOE Dashboard allows organizations to compare themselves to others for benchmarking and the MOE National Report provides data that supports a comprehensive review of national participant performance. The MOE Dashboard and National Report are exclusive NHPCO member benefits.

### **Special Session – Combined Quality/Regulatory Office Hours**

Join us for a special combined Quality and Regulatory Office Hours session on August 8 at 1 p.m. ET. These informal monthly sessions, hosted by the NHPCO Quality and Regulatory Teams, are an opportunity for members to network with peers, ask questions, and discuss an array of quality and regulatory topics with colleagues nationwide. During the August session, NHPCO will solicit feedback on the [Hospice Special Focus Program](#) proposal in the CY2024 Home Health Prospective Payment Update. [Register for the session](#) and submit questions in advance to [quality@nhpco.org](mailto:quality@nhpco.org) or [regulatory@nhpco.org](mailto:regulatory@nhpco.org).

### **Quality Connections Evaluation**

Calling all Quality Connections participants! Please complete the [QC Evaluation](#) to provide important feedback that helps us plan new content and improve the user experience. Quality Connections is NHPCO's core program for continuous quality improvement for hospice providers and professionals. There is still plenty of time left in the year to begin your Quality Connections journey! To learn more, register for an upcoming Quality Connections Orientation session, visit the [Quality Connections](#) page, or reach out to [qualityconnections@nhpco.org](mailto:qualityconnections@nhpco.org).

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## **PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT**

### **Upcoming Hospice MDP: *Managing Workplace Negativity* | August 7 – September 4**

In hospice, where the work itself is emotionally charged, it is vital that managers are competent in identifying, understanding, and addressing workplace negativity. This module will provide hospice managers with key information about negativity in the workplace and intervention skills to manage it. The course is now open for registration and will run from August 7 through September 4. Visit the Hospice MDP [Upcoming Courses schedule](#) for more information.

More to come in 2023:

- [Managing Conflict in the Workplace](#): August 14 – September 11
- [Building Emotional Intelligence](#): September 18 – October 16

### **CE/CME Opportunities**

Enroll in the courses below to learn the latest hospice regulations and standards:

- [Hospice Quality Certificate Program](#) (HQCP): This program includes a review of the federal hospice regulations, compliance as the foundation of a quality hospice program, and the connection between compliance and quality outcomes.
- [Hospice Compliance Certificate Program](#) (HCCP): This program covers the basics of healthcare compliance, including developing a compliance program, compliance risk assessment, compliance policies and procedures, and anonymous reporting.
- [Hospice Conditions of Participation](#): This module reviews hospice levels of care and presents application scenarios for participants. The module also discusses the provision of hospice care in nursing facilities, a regulatory "hot spot" for providers today.

If you've already completed HQCP or HCCP, check out the recently updated [companion courses](#). To enroll in any of NHPCO's courses, visit the [Online Catalog](#).

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## MEMBER UPDATES

### **Join the End-of-Life Doula MyNHPCO Community!**

Join this [new MyNHPCO community](#) to discuss topics and issues of relevance to end-of-life doulas (EOLD), from supporting hospice and palliative care patients to starting an EOLD program at your hospice. This community will be focused on supporting doulas and helping providers understand the role of the doula in offering more collaborative care for patients and their loved ones. Join the community by introducing yourself and your program on the "Welcome & Introductions" post. Don't forget to sign up for the community digest to see what's happening next.

### **New CaringInfo Consumer Resource – Finding Care Outside of the Home**

CaringInfo.org is a program of NHPCO that provides free resources to educate and empower patients and caregivers to make decisions about serious illness and end-of-life care and services. CaringInfo's content can be used to help you in conversations with patients and their loved ones, or with your own family members.

As our community is aware, while hospice and palliative care are often provided in the home, they can also be provided in many other settings, including assisted living facilities, nursing homes, and skilled nursing facilities. CaringInfo now offers a new section, [Finding Care Outside of the Home](#), to help patients and their loved ones learn about the differences between the types of care provided in each of these settings as well as what to consider when choosing the right care for them.

### **We Want to Hear Your Stories! National Hospice and Palliative Care Month**

Each year, November is recognized as National Hospice and Palliative Care Month (HAPCM), a time to reach out to your local community, engage with media contacts, and celebrate staff and volunteers. The NHPCO team is excited to announce the theme for this year's HAPCM – "Courageous Conversations." Courageous Conversations can include:

- Eligible patients speaking with their loved ones and doctors about choosing hospice
- Patients on census speaking with family members about their plan of care
- Providers initiating conversations with eligible patients about hospice care
- Providers conducting advance care planning conversations and initiating sometimes difficult conversations with patients and their families before there is a crisis

You and your team likely have these types of conversations daily and we want to hear from you! Over the next few weeks, NHPCO will be collecting stories of courageous conversations to be featured in the 2023 HAPCM campaign.

**If you have a story to share**, please email [communications@nhpco.org](mailto:communications@nhpco.org). If your story involves identifying patient information, please be sure you have the proper permissions before sharing. More information about HAPCM, including member materials, will be available in late summer.

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## DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION

### **Project ECHO: Equity Where It Matters**

***Evaluation and Knowledge Check:*** If you attended the July 20 session, "Engaging Community Systems to Improve Health Equity," please visit NHPCO's [Project ECHO](#) page to complete the evaluation. If you are participating in the NHPCO Health Equity certificate program, please also complete the Knowledge Check. Reach out to [innovation@nhpco.org](mailto:innovation@nhpco.org) with any questions.

***Upcoming Session:*** Cultural values and beliefs often shape an individual's definition of a good death. As hospice and palliative care professionals, it's our responsibility to ease a person's final passage, which requires care delivery in alignment with the patient's lived experiences, cultural

values, and religious beliefs. [Join us](#) on Thursday, August 3 at 3 p.m. ET for "Identifying Cultural Needs to Enhance the Care Experience." Presenters will examine and highlight the importance of cultural assessment, offer adaptable communication models, and provide strategies that can be incorporated into a culturally sensitive care delivery process.

**About Project ECHO:** Project ECHO creates virtual communities of learners by bringing together healthcare providers, subject matter experts, and the wider community using case-based learning and an "all teach, all learn" approach. The 2023 series, *Equity Where It Matters*, addresses diversity and cultural competence in healthcare.

### **Health Disparities & Health Equity Research Recommendations and Opportunities**

The National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK) conducts and supports research on many chronic conditions which disproportionately affect minority populations. The Health Disparities and Health Equity Research Working Group of the NIDDK Advisory Council has released a new report, [Pathways to Health for All](#), that outlines recommendations for advancing health equity and reducing health disparities in NIDDK's research programs. The report focuses on five key research recommendations, each accompanied by actionable strategies and opportunities for conducting high-impact research. [Download the full report.](#)

### **Alzheimer's Disease Programs Initiative – State and Community Grants**

This cooperative agreement from the [Administration for Community Living](#) will support and promote the development and expansion of dementia-capable home and community-based service systems in states and communities. If your organization is interested, the deadline to apply is August 7 by 11:59 p.m. ET.

### **Rural Health Innovation Program**

The [Rural Health Innovation Program](#) at the University of California Berkeley's School of Public Health will offer twenty-five, fully-paid scholarships per year to eligible online students seeking a master's in public health to support leadership development for rural public health leaders. If interested, the deadline for the application is August 13.

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## **MyNHPCO COMMUNITIES**

### **Upcoming Chat Not to Miss**

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

- **Part II - Building a Hospice EOL Doula Program** – [Register for the Integrative and Rehabilitation Therapies Community Chat](#) on August 1 at 2 p.m. ET to hear from members of the EOL Doula Community & Council and focus on the process of setting up and operating an end-of-life doula program within your organization. Attention will be paid to the importance of existing organizational infrastructure and culture as well as the pitfalls, challenges, and misconceptions of setting up a program.
- **In the Mourning Store: American Grief and the Civil War** – Join the MyNHPCO Bereavement Professional community [chat on August 2 at 2 p.m. ET](#) for the first in an occasional series of conversations to help place the various ways that Americans grieve in historical perspective. The huge losses of the Civil War gave rise to movements like Spiritualism as well as the modern funeral home industry. What can our history tell us about how to help people integrate losses in the 21st century?
- **Strengthening Your Brand to Improve Average Daily Census** – As hospice providers grow their business and expand their continuum of care, they may run into a branding problem. [Join the MyNHPCO Development/PR/Marketing Community](#) chat on August 8 at 1 p.m. ET to hear from Denise King, Chief Marketing and Development Officer for Centrica Care

Navigators plus home care branding experts from Transcend Strategy Group for a compelling case study of how Centrica evolved their brand and grew their ADC significantly afterward.

- **I Cannot Take Another Death!** – You're invited to the MyNHPCO [Nurse](#) and [Certified Nursing Assistant](#) Combined Communities chat. Yes, it is hospice, AND we cannot take another death! Ever feel overwhelmed with cumulative deaths, day after day? Whether these losses are from our hospice work, personal, a known loss, or a tragedy, are you recognizing the effect of these deaths? Register now for the August 8 chat at 3 p.m. ET.
- **The Ultimate Betrayal: Spiritual Aspects of Body Image at End of Life** – Don't forget to register for the Spiritual Caregiver Community [chat on August 9 at 3 p.m. ET](#) to discuss the spiritual aspects of body image, decline, body "betrayal," and other concerns resulting from disease progression and surgeries. Additionally, explore tools that can aid Spiritual Caregivers in serving as a non-judgmental and supportive presence for patients and their families.

### Chat Recordings Now Available

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

- **Back to Basics: Rethinking Hospice Care Plans** – [QAPI Community Chat](#)
- **Volunteer Orientation, Training, and Post-Training** – [Volunteer Management Community Chat](#)
- **Don't be a Lone Ranger: Staying Safe on Home Visits** – [Social Worker Community Chat](#)

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.

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

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