



NHPCO NewsBriefs

July 30, 2020

- One Month Left to Complete NDS
- FY21 Wage Index Final Rule Posting Soon
- Hospice PEPPER Available for Q4FY19
- NHPCO Gov Funding Webinar #3: 9/21
- Data Requirements for State Licensure
- HGRP Update for Q2 and Q3 of 2020
- Notes from CMS Open Door Forum
- Become a Hospice Advocate
- Palliative Care Survey Extended to 8/31
- Virtual Conference Online Access Available
- Reminder: WHV Level 5 Discussion
- WHV Partner Networking Call 8/12
- Board Nomination Deadline Extended
- Planting Seeds of Love Blog
- Lessons from the Front Line Call 8/7
- Upcoming MyNHPCO Chats Not to Miss
- NHPCO Members Save at Office Depot

Please be aware that NHPCO staff are working remotely as we follow guidelines from the CDC. All staff are active and digitally connected, and we anticipate little or no disruption in service.

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

TOP STORY

One Month Left to Complete National Data Set

The National Data Set is a unique collection of information on staffing, volunteer, and bereavement services. Sharing your program's information helps NHPCO update existing resources, such as the NHPCO Staffing Guidelines, and create new member resources. All NDS participants will receive the National Report for free and will be entered in a raffle for two free passes to NHPCO's Virtual Interdisciplinary Conference! To submit your data, visit nhpc.org/nds. **Deadline to participate is August 30, 2020.**



REGULATORY & COMPLIANCE

FY2021 Hospice Wage Index Final Rule Posting Soon

NHPCO anticipates that the Final Rule will post by the end of this week. As soon as it posts, we will send the first of two Regulatory Alerts letting you know that the final rule is out. The second Regulatory Alert will provide our analysis of the final rule, the state/county rate charts, and links to any resources NHPCO has developed to assist providers with implementation efforts.

Hospice PEPPER Available for Q4FY19

The PEPPER team announced on Wednesday that the Q4FY19 release of the *Hospice Program for Evaluating Payment Patterns Electronic Report (PEPPER)* with statistics through September 2019 is now available for download through the [PEPPER Resources Portal](#). To obtain your *Hospice PEPPER*, the Chief Executive Officer, President, Administrator, Compliance Officer, or Quality Assurance/Performance Improvement Officer of your organization should:

1. Review the [Secure PEPPER Access Guide](#) (PDF).
2. Review the instructions and obtain the information required to authenticate access. Note: A new validation code will be required. A patient control number (UB-04 form locator O3a) or medical record number (UB-04 form locator O3b) from a claim for a traditional Medicare Fee-for-Service beneficiary with a claim "from" or "through" date between July 1 - Sept. 30, 2019, will be required.
3. Visit the [PEPPER Resources Portal](#).
4. Complete all the fields.
5. Download your PEPPER.

The *Hospice PEPPER* will be available to download for approximately two years.

NHPCO Government Funding Webinar #3 – Reporting

NHPCO will be holding the third in our webinar series on government funding during COVID, with a focus on reporting. Save the date for the webinar on September 21, 2020 from 2:00 to 3:30 pm ET. Watch for more details coming soon.

QUALITY

Data Requirements Tied to State Licensure

Does your state collect data as a part of your licensure requirements? If so, NHPCO's quality team would like to hear from you! Please send an email to quality@nhpco.org letting us know what data is being collected and who within your state department you are sending it to.

HGRP Quarterly Update for 2nd and 3rd Quarters of 2020 Available

The [Hospice Quarterly Update](#) (PDF) for the second and third quarters of 2020 is now available. This update includes Hospice Quality Reporting Program highlights from the second quarter (April – June 2020) and third quarter (July – September 2020), events and engagement opportunities for the third quarter (July – September 2020) and fourth quarter (October – December 2020), and selected questions and answers from the Hospice Quality Help Desk.

Notes from CMS's Home Health, Hospice and DME Open Door Forum

CMS held an open door forum on July 29 and the following HQRP information was reviewed:

- A tip sheet is available for HQRP data submission starting July 1, 2020 as flexibilities have ended. 2020 data will include data submitted July 1 through December 31.
- A FAQ sheet on timeliness requirements is available on the CMS HQRP website.
- Web-based training on HQRP topics and categories are available on the CMS HQRP webpage.
- The HOPE Tool pilot testing is complete. CMS has begun enrolling hospices in the alpha testing, which will start this fall.
- CMS will host a webinar to discuss the new hospice care index measure concept for providers to share ideas and provide feedback.
- July 13, non-compliant HQRP participants were notified. Providers have until August 18 to submit a reconsideration form.
- Public reporting:
 - August refresh coming soon.
 - Provider review for the November refresh will be available in September. Providers will have 30 days to preview results.
- CAHPS submissions are due August 12, 2020 from Q1 2020. If you do not have data, you are exempt. If you have Q1 data, vendors should submit by August 12.

ADVOCACY & LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

Become a Hospice Action Network Advocate

NHPCO's advocacy affiliate, the Hospice Action Network, works tirelessly to ensure that the voices and concerns of the hospice and palliative care community remain heard and felt on Capitol Hill. As part of those efforts, HAN sends timely updates and newsletters on what's happening in Washington and how to advocate for hospice and palliative care patients, families, and providers. Join over 25,000 advocates by [signing up to receive HAN Updates!](#)

PALLIATIVE & ADVANCED CARE

Palliative Care Survey Extended to 8/31

We haven't heard from you – yet! There is still time to participate in the [NHPCO Palliative Care Survey](#); we have extended the deadline to August 31. We have also opened participation to members and non-members. Please share the link broadly and encourage your colleagues to complete the survey. Results help us with advocacy efforts, and our Palliative Care Playbook was created based on information from the 2018 survey. Thank you for your participation!

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT & EDUCATION

Virtual Conference Online Access Now Available

Miss the 2020 Virtual Conference? Access the exclusive conference website for keynote and concurrent education session recordings and presentations all focused on quality. The website also includes a powerful video library. View all these resources on-demand when your schedule

allows, and share content with your staff, volunteer groups and community partners. Return as often as you like to get the most out of this important content that focuses on all aspects of quality from palliative to hospice care. [Register for Virtual Conference website access today.](#)

WE HONOR VETERANS

Reminder: WHV Discussion on Level 5 Adjustments for COVID-19

The WHV team invites all Level 4 and 5 partners to join us for a webinar to discuss changes to Level 5 activity requirements because of COVID-19. We want to hear what is working for our partners, what is no longer feasible, and together craft solutions for partner activities moving forward. [Join us Tuesday, August 4 from 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. ET for an open discussion.](#) If you are not able to join, a recording will be available. You may submit questions or feedback in advance to veterans@nhpco.org.

WHV Partner Networking Call 8/12

The next We Honor Veterans Partner Networking Call will be held on Wednesday, August 12 at 4 p.m. ET. Join the call to hear updates from NHPCO and the VA, as well as the latest on what community engagement looks like during the pandemic and how partners can adapt to continue moving forward and best serve the Veterans in their care and their communities. [Register online.](#)

NEWS FROM NHPCO

Board Nomination Submission Extended

The call for Board Nominations was extended and will be open through **Friday, August 7**. Consider if this would be a good fit for you or recommend this opportunity to a peer. Board members help shape the future of hospice and palliative care and help NHPCO accomplish its [strategic priorities](#) (PDF). Nominees approved during this open call will begin serving on the NHPCO Board of Directors January 1, 2021. [Additional information is available online.](#)

Planting Seeds of Love – a Faces of Caring Blog

In the [latest #hpcFacesOfCaring blog](#), Visiting Nurse and Hospice for Vermont and New Hampshire grants a patient's wish for greenery, bringing joy and nature to her window. If you would like to submit a photo or story to the Faces of Caring campaign, go to nhpco.org/faces-of-caring. We want to continue to tell your stories from the front lines!

OTHER NEWS & NOTES

CMS COVID-19 Lessons from the Front Lines Call 8/7

Lessons from the Front Lines calls are a joint effort between CMS Administrator Verma, FDA Commissioner Stephen Hahn, MD, and the White House Coronavirus Task Force. Physicians and other clinicians are invited to share their experience, ideas, strategies, and insights with one another related to their COVID-19 response. There is also an opportunity to ask questions of the presenters. [Registration is available online.](#)

MyNHPCO ONLINE COMMUNITY

Upcoming MyNHPCO Chats Not to Miss

Register online for free chats for NHPCO members. A reminder that continuing education is not available for our MyNHPCO community chats.

- [*The Role of Bereavement in the IDT*](#)
Join the Bereavement Professional MyNHPCO Community to discuss guidance for the bereavement/grief counselor's participation in the IDT, including documentation, rituals, and transitioning to ensure satisfactory preparation for bereavement care for our families. **Wednesday, August 5 at 2:00 p.m. ET.**
- [*Is the Story Helping to Drive Individual Plans of Care?*](#)
Are IDT meetings long? Do you hear the same "stories" on patients over and over? Join the MyNHPCO Nurse community for a discussion on how to turn stories into individual plans of care while discussing end of life hopes and wishes. **Tuesday, August 11 at 3:00 p.m. ET.**
- [*No Patient Dies Alone: Creating or Growing a Solid Vigil Program*](#)
Whether you are a newbie at the idea of vigils, looking to grow or enhance your program, or hoping to get and share ideas, this presentation is for you. The MyNHPCO Volunteer Management community chat will illustrate how one hospice agency recognized a need for a better, strong program and the steps they took to raise the bar in vigil care. **Thursday, August 13 at 3:00 p.m. ET.**

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

MEMBER RESOURCES

NHPCO Members can Save at Office Depot

NHPCO members can save every day with discounts of up to 75% at Office Depot. As an exclusive offer to healthcare workers, [Powecom Supply face masks \(Item #6528612\) and BYD N95 respirators \(Item #9873715\)](#) are available from Office Depot while supplies last. To receive exclusive offers about the Office Depot Savings Program, text NHPCOSPC to 555-888.



The banner features a collage of images including a bridge, a city skyline, a cow, and the Statue of Liberty. The text on the left reads "OCTOBER 2020 VIRTUAL INTERDISCIPLINARY CONFERENCE". On the right, it states "THIS VIRTUAL EVENT WILL COMBINE LIVE KEYNOTES WITH AN IN-DEPTH LIBRARY OF ON-DEMAND SESSIONS RELEASED WEEKLY" and includes the NHPCO logo with the tagline "Leading Person-Centered Care".

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

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