



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

TOP STORY

CMS Finalizes Hospice IDG Changes in CY 2024 Physician Fee Schedule Final Rule

On November 3, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released the [calendar year \(CY\) 2024 Payment Policies under the Physician Fee Schedule and Other Changes to Part B Payment and Coverage Policies](#) final rule, which implements provisions of the Consolidated Appropriations Act 2023, to include mental health counselors (MHCs) and marriage and family therapists (MFTs) as part of the hospice interdisciplinary group (IDG), beginning January 1, 2024. Consistent with NHPCO's recommendation, CMS will only require hospices to include one social worker, one MFT, or one MHC on the IDG – not all three. For more information, see NHPCO's [regulatory alert](#).



UPCOMING EVENTS

- November 13:** [Membership Orientation Call](#)
- November 14:** Chat – [How to Curate Your Hospice Story by Defining Your Leadership Vision](#)
- November 14:** Chat – [Hospice Care Plans: Part II](#)
- November 14:** Chat – [Rural Advocacy](#)
- November 15:** Chat – [Mentor/Mentee Program: Cultivating Strong Volunteer Coordinators](#)
- November 16:** [Spiritual Caregiver Community Peer-Led Support Group](#)

REGULATORY & COMPLIANCE

Upcoming Regulatory Office Hours – November 17

The next Regulatory Office Hours session will be held on Friday, November 17. Office Hours are an opportunity to chat with the NHPCO Regulatory Committee in an open forum, ask regulatory questions, and learn from others' experiences and best practices. [Register and submit questions](#) through the Regulatory & Compliance Center. A recording of the meeting will be available on the [Regulatory Office Hours page](#).

MODELS & DEMOS

Final Report on Medicare Care Choices Models Published

On November 6, CMS published the [final report](#) and [At-a-Glance report](#) on the Medicare Care Choices Model (MCCM). MCCM ran from 2016 through 2021 to test access to concurrent care and evaluate “whether providing these supportive services could improve the quality of life and care received by Medicare beneficiaries, increase patient satisfaction, and reduce Medicare expenditures.” The key takeaways highlighted by CMS stated these goals were attained and “MCCM is a promising approach to increasing hospice use.” For more information on MCCM, review NHPCO’s [Models & Demos page](#).

QUALITY

CMS Hospice November Forum

CMS will host a Hospice Forum on Tuesday, November 14 at 1 p.m. ET to share hospice-related updates around the CY 2024 Medicare Home Health Prospective Payment System Final Rule, including the finalized Informal Dispute Resolution Process and Special Focus Program. Visit [CMS Hospice November Forum](#) to register.

HQRP Q3 2023 Q&A - Now Available

Members are encouraged to download the [HQRP Q3 2023 Q&A](#) document to review the answers to HQRP questions received by the Hospice Quality Help Desk during the third quarter of 2023.

Quality Office Hours – Change in Schedule

Due to the CMS Hospice November Forum, there will be no Quality Office Hours in November. Members are encouraged to attend the [CMS Hospice November Forum](#) on Tuesday, November 14, as well as [NHPCO Regulatory Office Hours](#) on Friday, November 17. For more information about Quality Office Hours, visit the [NHPCO Quality Office Hours page](#) and submit questions in advance to quality@nhpco.org.

PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT

ALC2023: Look Out for NEW On-Demand Content!

Live events for the 2023 NHPCO Annual Leadership Conference (ALC2023) have concluded; thank you to all who attended. Participants enjoyed four incredible keynotes, engaging live educational sessions, and meaningful opportunities to connect with peers. Feeling like you missed out? It’s not too late! [Register now](#) to gain access to the full on-demand content library through December 31, 2023. Three keynote recordings and 14 concurrent session recordings from the live conference events have also been added to the on-demand library. Attendees can view a broad selection of content and earn CE/CME credit.

2024 Hospice Manager Development Program Schedule

The Hospice Manager Development Program (MDP) 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. This dynamic training and development program provides access to national hospice experts and peers in hospice management. Level I and II courses are [now open for registration](#). Visit the Hospice MDP [Upcoming Courses schedule](#) for more information, rates, and registration.

More to come in 2024:

- [Hospice MDP Foundational Course](#): January 29 – March 11
 - [Managing the Changing Organization](#): February 12 – March 11
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WE HONOR VETERANS

We Honor Veterans Partner Portal Closure for Maintenance - December 1 through January 8

The We Honor Veterans Partner Portal will be closed for maintenance beginning December 1 at 11:59 p.m. The portal will reopen on January 8 at 8 a.m. During this time, partner sign-ups and report submissions will be unavailable. All partners with Level 5 reports due in December will receive an extension through January 31. This necessary closure for maintenance will enable the portal's optimal functioning and ensure that partners and the public have access to the most up to date information available. We apologize for this inconvenience and thank you for your patience during this time. Please reach out to wehonorveterans@nhpco.org with any questions.

Attend a Veterans Day Event Near You

Saturday, November 11 is Veteran's Day, a date reserved to thank those who have served our nation. The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has compiled a [directory of Veterans Day happenings](#) occurring in all 50 states. View this continuously updated list to find a Veterans Day parade, car show, or celebratory event in your community!

Veterans Day – We Honor Veterans Resources

In honor of November 11, the WHV team invites you to review some of our most-used materials:

- Use the [Partner Directory](#) to find a We Honor Veterans hospice organization in your area
- Learn more about holding a [Pinning Ceremony](#) to honor a critically-ill Veteran
- Review how to ["Earn Your Stars"](#) and get inspired to reach the next level
- Become an advocate with the [WHV Advocacy Toolkit](#)
- Browse the [Events Calendar](#) and find a way to get informed and stay involved
- [Submit a story](#) to share how your organization is providing Veteran-centric care

MEMBER UPDATES

Membership Orientation Call

New to NHPCO? The upcoming Membership Orientation Call provides an opportunity for members to connect and share valuable insights about NHPCO membership. This call is designed to help members maximize their benefits. Join the Membership Team on November 13 from 2-3 p.m. ET or December 8 from 2-3 p.m. ET to learn how. Your membership is important to us and we're here to support you every step of the way. [Register for the November 13](#) or [December 8 calls](#).

New HPM Talk Podcast Episode: ACHPN Prep Part 6 - Intervention and Management

Join Dr. Steven Baumrucker, Medical Director, Ballad Health Palliative Medicine Associates, as he speaks with Amanda Stevens, Nurse Practitioner and Clinical Educator, Ballad Health Systems Palliative Medicine, and Carissa Depew, Palliative and Hospice Nurse Practitioner, Ballad Health Hospice, for the sixth episode in this ongoing series discussing pitfalls and pearls to help pass the ACHPN exam. Plus, hear letters from listeners! [Listen to the newest episode here](#). Subscribe to the Physician and Advanced Practice Provider Community Podcast, HPM Talk, in the podcast player of your choice.

NHPCO 2024 Membership Renewal

Thank you for being a member of NHPCO and an active participant in the hospice and palliative care community! We hope NHPCO has been a useful resource for you and a strong advocate on your behalf throughout 2023. As we approach the end of the year, the membership renewal process is beginning. You may notice that NHPCO is reaching out earlier this year than in previous ones. The goal is to make your renewal process as seamless as possible, and we thank you for engaging early. You can expect to receive a physical mailing from NHPCO in the next couple of weeks which will include your membership renewal packet. For now, you can save time and renew online by visiting nhpco.org/renew. If you have any questions, please contact solutions@nhpco.org.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION

Project ECHO: Equity Where It Matters

Evaluation and Knowledge Check: If you attended the November 2 session, "Disrupting Ageism," please visit our [Project ECHO](#) page to complete the evaluation. If you are participating in the NHPCO Health Equity certificate program, please also complete the Knowledge Check attached to the evaluation as well. Reach out to innovation@nhpco.org with any questions.

Upcoming Session: Our culture informs our identity and is often central to how we move through life. Likewise, patients and families of various backgrounds and traditions often engage in the process of grief and mourning in ways that may seem unique or unknown to many clinicians. [Join us](#) on Thursday, November 16 at 3 p.m. ET to explore and surface these issues in our upcoming session, **Cross-Cultural Variation in Grief and Mourning**.

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.

Consortium for Economic Research on Alzheimer's Disease Related Dementias Prevention, Treatment, and Care Coordination Center

This [grant opportunity](#) from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) is open to organizations seeking to establish a center that will support research on Alzheimer's disease and related dementias treatment and care innovations, as well as the economic factors influencing disease progression. If interested, the deadline to apply is November 30.

Alzheimer's Disease and Healthy Aging Data Portal

The [Alzheimer's Disease and Healthy Aging Data Portal](#) provides easy access to national and state level CDC data on a range of key indicators of health and wellbeing for older adults, including caregiving, subjective cognitive decline, screenings and vaccinations, and mental health. These indicators provide a snapshot of currently available surveillance information including available age group, gender, and race/ethnicity groups.

Reducing African Americans' Alzheimer's Disease Risk Through Exercise

This [study](#), sponsored by the Pennington Biomedical Research Center in collaboration with the National Institute on Aging, will determine if physical activity tailored to older African American adults is effective in modifying cognitive function associated with Alzheimer's Disease. This study will take place in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

NHPCO PODCAST

New Episode Out Now - Season 2, Episode 5 "Courageous Conversations"

A new NHPCO Podcast episode, Season 2, Episode 5 "Courageous Conversations" is out now! Each November, we celebrate National Hospice and Palliative Care Month; a time to honor and recognize the importance of these types of care and engage in courageous conversations with our loved ones and peers. On today's episode, Madison sits down with two NHPCO members to discuss their personal hospice stories and how difficult conversations led to their current roles in the hospice field. [Listen now](#).

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:

- **Rural Advocacy** – Join the MyNHPCO Rural Community chat on Tuesday, November 14 from 4-5 p.m. ET for a discussion on how to advocate for your organization and rural providers. Stephanie Marburger, NHPCO's Manager of Grassroots Advocacy, will provide an overview of the role advocacy plays in the political process, the small and big ways advocates can be effective, and the advocacy resources the Hospice Action Network provides. [Register to join](#) the conversation! If you are interested in getting more involved with the rural community, volunteer to be a steering committee member. We welcome all disciplines and those who have not participated in NHPCO leadership roles previously. Email Alix Ware at aware@nhpco.org with a short introduction about you and your hospice.
- **How to Curate Your Hospice Story by Defining Your Leadership Vision** – Join the MyNHPCO CEO/Executive Director Community [chat on November 14 at 1 p.m. ET](#) to discuss and identify five creative strategies to illustrate core values and advance the impact of your leadership story. This innovative conversation will demonstrate ways to promote professional development and increase participation among new hospice leaders serving in clinical and public relations roles. The chat will also cover how to curate your professional values in writing your vision statement as well as innovative approaches to fostering high-quality performance among all members of the hospice team.
- **Hospice Care Plans: Part II** – Join the MyNHPCO QAPI Steering Committee on November 14 at 3 p.m. ET for a follow-up discussion to the July chat focused on best practices for hospice care planning. Presenters will address questions and comments that weren't addressed at the [Back to Basics: Rethinking Hospice Care Plans chat](#) as well as any new questions attendees bring.
- **Mentor/Mentee Program: Cultivating Strong Volunteer Coordinators** – Register for the [MyNHPCO Volunteer Management Community chat](#) on November 15 at 3 p.m. ET to discuss the MyNHPCO Volunteer Management mentorship program. We will answer questions, go over the application and mentorship processes, and provide an overview of the benefits to being a mentor or mentee.
- **Spiritual Caregiver Community Peer-Led Support Group** – Don't forget to register for the MyNHPCO Spiritual Caregiver Community Peer-Led Support Group, focusing on spiritual care leadership and mentoring. The group provides a safe space for professional guidance, performance enhancement and development discussion, mentorship, leadership direction, and overall support to all clinicians who provide spiritual care in an interdisciplinary setting. [Register for the support group](#) on November 16 at 3:30 p.m. ET.

Chat Recordings Now Available

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

- **Regulatory Update on Recent Medicare Rules** – [MyNHPCO Finance/Information Systems Community Chat](#)
- **Staffing in 2023, Challenges, and Solutions** – [MyNHPCO Clinical and Operations Management Community Chat](#)
- **Honoring The Grief of Veterans and Their Families** – [MyNHPCO Bereavement Professional Community Chat](#)
- **DPRM Open Office Hours** – [MyNHPCO Development/PR/Marketing Community Chat](#)
- **On This Journey: Spiritual Caregiving When the Unexpected Happens** – [MyNHPCO Spiritual Caregiver 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.

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