

National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization Policy Alert

NHPCO Staff Meet with House Ways and Means Committee

To: NHPCO Provider Members

From: NHPCO Policy Team

Date: February 4, 2020

Yesterday, NHPCO met to discuss hospice program integrity legislation with staff from the House Committee on Ways and Means and the offices of Congressman Jimmy Panetta (D-CA) and Congressman Tom Reed (R-NY). Program integrity legislation is being considered after the HHS Office of Inspector General (OIG) identified serious deficiencies and examples of substandard or egregious care in hospice last summer.

NHPCO is leading a coalition of national stakeholder groups who have been working together on program integrity with both the House and Senate. Much of the discussion yesterday centered on the proposed alternative remedies/sanctions and other provisions including a special focus program which, if developed, could provide additional education and support for poor performing hospices; the inclusion of a training and competency requirement for hospice surveyors; timelines for surveys (i.e. every 36 months except for new providers or poor performers); and the inclusion of survey results, in a user-friendly and easy to read format, from both State agencies and accrediting organizations on Hospice Compare.

NHPCO will continue to work on behalf of providers to ensure the highest possible quality of care for all Medicare beneficiaries who need hospice. Discussions with Congress are ongoing and will intensify before the House bill is introduced, which could be as soon as next week.

For information on Senate bill (S. 2807), NHPCO members may view the [NHPCO Policy Alert](#) from November 8, 2020.

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