CMS Hospice Outcomes Patient Evaluation (HOPE) Alpha Test: Hospice Recruitment Announcement

To: NHPCO Members  
From: Quality Team  
Date: November 27, 2019

SUMMARY

CMS has posted an announcement that Abt Associates is currently recruiting hospice providers to participate in a field test (called an alpha test) of the new hospice patient assessment instrument, titled Hospice Outcomes & Patient Evaluation (HOPE). Data collection is anticipated to begin in February 2020. This is a great opportunity to participate in the development of this new tool for all hospice providers. Additional information is provided below.

Recruitment:

Recruitment begins 11/22/2019 and ends 12/20/2019. Abt will notify each applicant on or about 12/31/2019 whether they have or have not been selected to participate in the HOPE alpha test. Abt is seeking a representative group of hospices with a range of characteristics including ownership (profit, nonprofit) and rurality (urban, rural, both). The goal is to include hospices that provide care for a wide range of patient populations (i.e. patients with cancer and noncancer diagnoses).

Eligibility and Participation Requirements:

- Eligibility and Requirements Participation in the alpha test is completely voluntary.
- Hospices are eligible to participate in the HOPE alpha test if:
  - The hospice has enough capacity to support clinical staff time for training and data collection, and clinical manager, and support staff time for implementation, communication, and coordination with the Abt research team.
  - The Abt research team can deploy research nurses to support in-person data collection at the hospice for intrarater reliability testing.
Participation in Alpha Testing:

Hospice providers must:

- Identify a staff member (such as a clinical manager or coordinator) to be the field test coordinator who is the primary point person responsible for...
  - communication and coordination with the Abt research team and
  - ensuring that data collection is completed (this role can be shared by two people)
- Identify registered nurses, social workers, and chaplains/spiritual care counselors who routinely conduct patient assessments to collect data by completing HOPE assessments of varying types such as...
  - Admission
  - Interim
  - discharge assessments weekly
- Accommodate time for training of all roles mentioned above, in a combination of self-study modules and virtual training (e.g., webinars).
- Accommodate research nurses as they accompany hospice staff to complete their own series of assessments for interrater reliability and validity of the assessment items.
- Interested hospice providers must complete an online survey for the HOPE alpha test application.

Acknowledgement of Participation

Hospices that participate in the field testing will be provided an honorarium. If your hospice agency is asked to participate in the alpha test, CMS and Abt strongly encourage your participation in this very important project.

Learn More

Visit the CMS website to learn more about the CMS announcement about the HOPE alpha test.

Please email questions about this alert to NHPCO at quality@nhpco.org and put “HOPE alpha test” in the subject line.

-###-