The Connecticut Association for Healthcare at Home supports its members in the provision of exceptional quality and accessible services through collaboration, leadership, provision of information, advocacy and education.

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**HOME HEALTH**

Office of Inspector General Adds New Items to Home Health Work Plan

*Source: NAHC*

The Office of Inspector General (OIG) work planning is dynamic and adjustments are made throughout the year to meet priorities and to anticipate and respond to emerging issues. A Work Plan was developed and is available to the public. It is updated monthly with new issues. In January 2019, there are two new issues of interest to NAHC members. The first is specifically related to home health providers and the third is related to home health and hospice providers.

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What is the Home Care Workforce?

*Source: NAHC*

The home care workforce doubled from 2007 to 2017 to meet the rising demand for care in the home due to the "Silver Tsunami" of 10,000 people turning 65 every day and the long-overdue, but still unfinished shift of resources from institutional settings to home-and-community-based settings.

Over 2.1 million home care workers provide health care and personal assistance to the elderly and disabled, according to "U.S. Home Care Workers: Key Facts", a report from PHI. That number is expected to grow rapidly, since the population of people age 65 and older will almost double to 88 million by 2050.

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Summary of CMS Forum on PDGM, RCD & Much More

*Source: NAHC*
The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) held a Home Health, Hospice, and DME Open Door Forum (ODF) Wednesday, January 16, 2018. Topics included:

- Patient Driven Groupings Model (PDGM)
- Review Choice Demonstration
- Home Health Quality Reporting Program
- Home Health CAHPS Survey
- Hospice Quality Reporting Program
- Hospice CAHPS Survey
- Change Request (CR) 11049

A summary of the ODF is below and is separated between home health and hospice topics.

**HOSPICE**

**DEA Clarification on New Provision for Controlled Substances Disposal by Hospices**  
*Source: NHPCO*

NHPCO has been in ongoing conversation with the Drug Enforcement Agency regarding many questions from hospice providers about the new SUPPORT ACT provision that allows specified hospice personnel to dispose of controlled substances in the home. Some of the questions posed by providers include:

1. What if a family member does not agree to having the hospice dispose of controlled substances after the patient's death?
2. How should the hospice handle differences between new federal statute and state law?
3. Are there any additional requirements for a hospice inpatient facility?
4. What about drugs in the home prescribed before the patient elects hospice?

There are enough questions and nuances about implementation of the new law that until additional clarification comes from the DEA, NHPCO continues to recommend that hospices continue their current drug disposal practice. While we are hopeful to get answers quickly it is unknown what the DEA timeline might be in providing further information.

**CMS Development of "Serious Illness" Care Model Continues to Advance**  
*Source: NAHC*

Medicare coverage addresses a wide variety of preventive, acute and rehabilitative health care needs and also offers a comprehensive means for serving patients with terminal illness through the hospice benefit. However, gaps remain relative to effectively treating beneficiaries with serious chronic or advanced illness. Many believe that the key to successfully treating these beneficiaries is to offer team-based, patient-centered care aimed at maintaining maximum functioning, managing pain and distress, and minimizing acute exacerbations.
CMS Announces Plans to Test Coverage of Hospice under Medicare Advantage

"VBID" Plans may offer coverage beginning CY2021

As part of a release announcing a "broad array of Medicare Advantage (MA) health plan innovations that will be tested in the Value-Based Insurance Design (VBID) model for CY2020," the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' (CMS) has indicated it plans, beginning in CY2021, to test including the Medicare hospice benefit in MA. The notion of including hospice under the MA benefit package has received a great deal of discussion in recent years, particularly since the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission (MedPAC) included it in its recommendations to Congress in 2014. Since that time the National Association for Home Care & Hospice (NAHC) has opposed bringing hospice under Medicare Advantage; NAHC has significant concerns about the impact such a change could have on the hospice program, hospice patients, and providers of service.

NHPCO Releases Updated Pediatric Standards

Designed as Addendum to Standards of Practice for Hospice Programs

(Alexandria, Va) - A new edition of the Standards of Practice for Pediatric Palliative Care is now available as an addendum to the updated Standards of Practice for Hospice Programs (2018) which was released in July by National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization.

The Standards of Practice for Pediatric Palliative Care, written to complement NHPCO's Standards of Practice for Hospice Programs, are organized around ten component areas. The new Pediatric Standards are intended as a guide for both hospice and palliative care organizations providing care to infants, children, adolescents, and their families, regardless of whether care is delivered in the home, hospital, a long-term care setting or a respite facility.

The resource defines programmatic elements and standards which, if uniformly implemented, would ensure that programs for children with life-threatening conditions and their families provide the best care available.

"This work will help raise the bar on pediatric care by helping improve knowledge, skills and support for care providers" said Edo Banach, NHPCO president and CEO. "Providing pediatric hospice and palliative care is not the same as caring for adults and the Pediatric Standards is designed to enhance the skill set of professionals in the field."

The Pediatric Standards were originally developed by NHPCO's Children's Project on Palliative/Hospice Services and have been updated by ChiPPS members as well as the NHPCO Pediatric Advisory Council. ChiPPS and the Pediatric Advisory Council are working collaboratively with NHPCO to enhance the science and practice of pediatric hospice and palliative care, and to increase the availability of state of the art services to families.

NHPCO members may download the Pediatric Standards from NHPCO.org free of charge.

Non-members may purchase the Standards of Practice for Pediatric Palliative Care as a downloadable PDF from the NHPCO Marketplace at 1-800-646-6460.
Instructions for completing the Pro-Forma for Provider Self-Determination of Aggregate Cap Limitation

Ordering Required Reports from EIDM

In order to fill out the information needed on the Pro-Forma, the provider will need to order the following reports from Enterprise Identify Management System (EIDM), formerly IACS.

Download the Form Here

QUESTIONS? CONCERNS? COMMENTS?
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