



CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION FOR
HEALTHCARE AT HOMESM

CLINICAL & REGULATORY UPDATE

2017-20 | September 25, 2017

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

CMS Notes: Home Health Medical Review Tool and Large Print Beneficiary Notice Forms

Source: NAHC, September 15, 2017

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has issued a medical review tool for home health agencies to assist providers in submitting claims that meet Medicare requirements. [The tool](#) is located on the CMS medical review web site and was issued in conjunction with CMS' announcement of plans for home health medical review after round 2 of the Face to Face Probe and Educate program has been completed.

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CMS Proposes to Increase Assessment Items for Cognition

Source: NAHC, September 18, 2017

As NAHC Report readers know, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) published in the Federal Register on July 28, 2017 the Calendar Year (CY) 2018 Home Health Prospective Payment System Rate Update proposed rule.

A significant portion of the proposed rule is dedicated to proposals that update the Home Health Quality Reporting Program (HH QRP). The changes are numerous, with the

majority focused on cross setting quality measures and standardized assessment items that CMS is required to develop in accord with the Improving Medicare Post-Acute Care Transformation Act of 2014 (IMPACT Act).

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Industry Expert Answers Questions About How to Prepare for Patient Rights CoP

Following a recent DecisionHealth webinar about readiness for CMS' Condition of Participation (CoP) involving patient rights, agencies asked questions of attorney Elizabeth Pearson of Pearson & Bernard in Edgewood, Ky. Here are some of Pearson's answers

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HOSPICE

Series of Hospice Quality Updates: Hospice Compare Preview Report Issues, CAHPS Training, and Irma

Source: NAHC, September 18, 2017

Provider Preview Reports are now available and hospice providers are encouraged to preview their quality measure results based on Quarter 1-2016 to Quarter 4-2016 data, prior to the November 2017 Hospice Compare refresh. Providers have 30 days to preview their quality measure results (August 29, 2017 through September 28, 2017).

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FY2018 FINAL Hospice Wage Index State County Charts with FINAL Rates [File Info](#)

FY2018 FINAL Hospice Wage Index State County Charts with FINAL Rates

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NHPCO Podcast: The Value of PEPPER

Episode 24: Just over half of hospice organizations have downloaded their current Program for Evaluating Payment Patterns Electronic Report (PEPPER). Providers who aren't accessing their report are missing vital information on quality and performance and red flags that regulators are looking at. NHPCO's team shares their concerns and

Judi and Carol discuss the opportunities in this underused but incredibly valuable resource.

[Listen Now](#)

New Research Suggests People Begin Hospice Too Late

Research published in the current issue of the [Journal of the American Geriatrics Society](#) states that individuals who access hospice care often do so too late to fully benefit from this holistic model of care. These findings have led to visibility media attention that providers are encouraged to share.. Here are representative article links:

- ["When to Consider Hospice Care,"](#) Consumer Reports, 09/13/17.
- ["Yale study: Earlier hospice care would improve quality of end of life,"](#) New Haven Register, 09/12/17.
- ["Most Families Wait Too Long to Utilize Hospice Care,"](#) Healthline News, 09/12/17.
- ["Many May Get Hospice Care Too Late,"](#) U.S. News & World Reports, 09/12/17.

QUESTIONS? CONCERNS? COMMENTS?
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