



## CLINICAL & REGULATORY UPDATE

2017-24 | November 21, 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

#### Effective Date for the HH COPs Unchanged

*Source: NAHC, November 17, 2017*

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) will NOT be issuing a delay the Home Health Conditions of Participation. (HHCoPs), according to a letter from CMS to the National Association for Home Care & Hospice (NAHC).

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#### NEW: Targeted Probe and Educate Process for Both Home Health and Hospice

As of October 1, 2017 the Centers of Medicare & Medicaid (CMS) has extended the existing Targeted Probe and Educate (TPE) pilot to all include all lines of business for Medicare Administrative Contractors. The TPE will replace the existing progressive corrective action process. This webinar will focus information on education to hospice providers on the TPE process and how it will differ from the old PCA process.

For free education on this topic, go to [www.ngsmedicare.com](http://www.ngsmedicare.com) HH +H Education webpage for schedule and registration process.

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#### ElevatingHOME Submits Comments to CMS on Draft HHA CoP Interpretive Guidelines

ElevatingHOME recently shared comments from our members and staff on the draft version of the Home Health Agency Conditions of Participation (HHA CoP) Interpretive Guidelines with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). Comments submitted to CMS can be accessed here. These comments aim to elicit thorough clarification and explanation from CMS in order to enable successful adoption of the new HHA CoPs for agencies. CMS plans to release the final version of the HHA CoP Interpretive Guidelines in December 2017, which will go into effect January 13, 2018.

We thank all of the ElevatingHOME members who sent in questions and concerns about the draft HHA CoPs Interpretive Guidelines. ElevatingHOME is developing a series of webinars focused on areas of greatest concern for agencies.

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## **New Low-Volume Option Could Shrink the Line of Appeals at the ALJ Level**

Home health agencies and other providers with a low volume of pending appeals at the administrative law judge (ALJ) level now have a new option available to them to get out of the massive appeals backlog.

The Low Volume Appeals (LVA) option is available to "providers and suppliers with a low volume of Medicare Part A and B claim appeals pending" at the third and fourth levels of appeal, according to HHS.

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# **HOSPICE**

## **FY2018 FINAL Hospice Wage Index State County Charts with FINAL Rates**

*Date: November 1, 2017*

**[DOWNLOAD FINAL HOSPICE WAGE INDEX STATE COUNTRY CHARTS HERE](#)**

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## **NHPCO Releases Video about Palliative Care**

*Source: NHPCO*

NHPCO has released a new video highlighting the benefits of palliative care. The video follows Michael Sampair and emphasizes how palliative care can help patients facing advanced or serious illness. Read NHPCO's [press release](#) or [watch the video now](#).

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## **Notes from CMS Home Health, Hospice, DME Open Door Forum Call**

*Source: NHPCO*

The following hospice quality reporting program items were presented on the ODF call on November 15, 2017. The date for the next call is to be determined in 2018.

- Hospice Quality Reporting Program Training - CMS has recently provided education and outreach for hospice providers with the goal of increasing HIS and CAHPS submission and limiting the number of hospices with a 2% penalty for non-compliance. Resources from recent training are available at this CMS website. The next HQRP training will occur in early 2018.
- Hospice Item Set—Timeliness Compliance Threshold Report Fact Sheet - CMS encourages hospices to check their threshold report to ensure compliance; 80% submission compliance is required for 2017.

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**QUESTIONS? CONCERNS? COMMENTS?**  
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