Current News

Care Decision CT Promotes Hospice and Palliative Options

The CT Association for Healthcare at Home in collaboration with CHA, Leading Age, CSMS and CAHCF held a forum on April 19, "A Collaborative Journey to Transform Advanced Illness Care and Planning."

Speakers included CT State Comptroller Kevin Lembo, Susan Frampton, PhD, president, Planetree International and Karen Mulvihill, DNP, APRN, Co-chairperson Care Decisions CT and Co-Chairperson CT State Palliative Care Advisory Council.

Association Launches Grassroots During State Budget Battle

The Association activated its email and phone grassroots advocacy on April 24 specifically targeting CT legislators on the Finance and Appropriations Committees. Our two messages were:

- Oppose State Budget Cuts to Medicaid Home Health
- Do Not Impose Sales Tax on Non-Profit Organization Purchases

CMS Delays Rule to Improve Home Health Agency Care

CMS proposed a 6-month delay for home health agencies to implement a final rule aimed
at improving their operations and patient care. The current effective date is July 13, 2017, and CMS has proposed pushing the effective date to January 13, 2018.

Continue Reading

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**CMS Posts FY2018 Hospice Payment and Quality Requirements Rule**

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid (CMS) posted the [proposed FY2018 Hospice Wage Index and Payment Rate Update and Hospice Quality Reporting Requirements](https://www.cms.gov). The rule allows for a 1 percent increase in hospice payments, which equates to an increase of $180 million in hospice outlays; it also updates the hospice wage index using the FY2017 hospital pre-floor, pre-reclassified wage index. Additionally, the rule outlines Public Reporting Plans for Quality measures and seeks comment on sources of information for 6-month life expectancy, comprehensive assessment instrument.

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**Workers Comp Trust Shares Educational Tools for Home Care Employee Safety**

Home healthcare workers face unique risks on the job to their own personal safety and health.

Educate your employees about how to avoid injury from lifting or transferring clients; slips, trips or falls; exposure to blood and injections; exposure to verbal abuse and other forms of violence in the client’s home or community; and the related stress that the job produces.

Print and share these four (4) educational fliers with your employees:
1. [Home Health & Companion Training Resources](#)
2. [Household Safety Checklist](#)
3. [Occupational Hazards in Home Healthcare](#)
4. [Home Health & Companion L-4](#)

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**It's Not Too Late, But It's Close!**

Join us for the 2017 NEHCC Conference Register by May 5th to Avoid the Late Fee!

The [New England Home Care & Hospice Conference and Trade Show](#) takes place in just three weeks! We know you don't want to miss it! And you likely don't want to pay a late fee, either. Register by Friday, May 5 and you can avoid the late fee!

Join national and local speakers and exhibitors, as well as colleagues from all over New England, in Manchester, NH, May 16, 17 and 18. See detailed descriptions in the brochure.
Register Online Today!

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Radisson Hotel Manchester, NH ~ www.nehcc.com | May 16, 17 & 18, 2017

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