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.

HOME HEALTH

Home Health Compare Update Shows Jump in Transferring, Total 5 Star Agencies

Source: HHL

More agencies have achieved 5-star status than ever before, and scores for transferring saw the biggest jump among all measures listed on Home Health Compare, according to the website's latest update.

The new data give agencies more reason to focus training and quality improvement efforts to remain competitive. The number of agencies with five stars in quality of care climbed to 460 in the April 11 update, compared to 365 agencies in January 2018.

Continue Reading

Early Survey Results Reveal Patient Rights as Target Areas under Revised CoPs

Source: HHL

Initial survey results following the implementation of the revised Home Health Conditions of Participation (CoPs) show that some surveyors are closely scrutinizing agencies' compliance with patient rights.

Key target areas include informing patients about visit frequency and about explaining financial requirements and expectations.

Sharon Litwin of 5 Star Consultants in Camdenton, Mo., has had six clients surveyed by accrediting bodies or state surveyors since Jan. 13 - when the revised CoPs took effect.
Patient rights requirements are major targets.

Continue Reading

The Shortage Of Home Care Workers: Worse Than You Think
Source: Forbes

Among society's most pressing questions with the aging of the population is who will help growing numbers of frail elderly with routine tasks at home, such as bathing and dressing and cooking. Families often take on these caregiving responsibilities, but the job isn't practical for many working boomers and Gen Xers, families with far-flung children, widows and widowers and the childless elderly. That's why the need is so great for professional home care workers.

The demand for home care workers - also known as the "direct care" workforce - is expected to increase dramatically in coming years. Government statisticians rank home care as one of the nation's fastest growing occupations, with an additional million workers needed by 2026; that's an increase of 50% from 2014. And the number of Americans age 85 and older is projected to more than double in the next few decades, soaring from 1.8% of the population in 2010 to 4.5% in 2050.

Continue Reading

New OASIS FAQ's Posted

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has posted a new set of Outcome and Assessment Information Set (OASIS) frequently asked questions (FAQs) on the QTSO website. This is the first set of OASIS FAQs posted since October 2016.

There are 11 new FAQs that address changes to the "one clinician rule" , the change in the regulation that permits a timely ROC date to be based on a physician's order, and several other issues.

It is unclear if CMS intends to resume its previous practice of quarterly OASIS FAQs. The National Association for Home Care & Hospice is seeking clarification from CMS.

CMS Open Door Forum on Long-Term Services and Supports

The Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has scheduled its latest Open Door Forum (ODF) on Long-Term Services and Supports for April 24, 2018 at 2:00PM (ET). Please dial-in at least 15 minutes before call start time.
The conference leaders for this ODF are Jodie Sumeracki of the Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services (CMCS) and Jill Darling of the CMS Office of Communications. Ms. Sumeracki will be chair and deliver the opening remarks, while Ms. Darling will serve as moderator.

**HOSPICE**

**NHPCO Introduces My Hospice Campaign to Highlight Value of Hospice Care**

*Source: NHPCO*

**NHPCO Launches New My Hospice Campaign to Reinforce Value of Medicare's Hospice Benefit to Patients, Families and the Healthcare System**

(Washington, DC) - At their annual Management and Leadership Conference, the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization today launched a new advocacy campaign to reinforce the value of the Medicare hospice benefit among policy and healthcare decision makers to foster a policy environment that will support patient access to high quality, comprehensive hospice and palliative care. As Medicare's first coordinated care model, hospice is one of the few sectors that demonstrates how healthcare can - and should - work at its best for its patients, offering a successful model for expanding access to person-centered, integrated care to all patients with serious, advanced and life-limiting illness, and their caregivers.

The campaign, My Hospice, aims to demonstrate what hospice means to each unique individual and family it serves. Through the My Hospice campaign, NHPCO will highlight how critically important hospice and palliative care are to Americans across the country, while educating policymakers that hospice is an integrated care program that works and a high-quality benefit that matters.

**Senate Committee Introduces Finalizes Opioid Legislation**

*Source: NHPCO*

-Hospice Disposal Provisions Revised, Improved

As we reported in early April, the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee is moving quickly to act on legislation designed to address the America's opioid abuse crisis. This week the HELP Committee not only formally introduced legislation (S. 2680 - the Opioid Crisis Response Act of 2018) that represents a refined version of the discussion draft released on April 4, but also announced plans to mark up the bill on Tuesday, April 24.

As indicated in our coverage, the discussion draft contained provisions aimed at authorizing certain hospice employees to assist with disposal of controlled substances that were dispensed for use by the hospice patient but remain in the home when the patient has died. The National Association for Home Care & Hospice (NAHC) had some serious of concerns
related to the provisions, and has been in discussions with HELP Committee staff, member
staff, and other stakeholders to address those concerns.

**Continue Reading**

**Hospice Quality Updates - Quality Measure Calculation Corrected; Reports
Now Available**

- Also: Notices on CAHPS Submission Deadline, Exemption for Size Form

**Updated Hospice Quality Measure Reports Now Available:** Hospices were notified on
April 13, 2018, that the Hospice-Level and Hospice Patient Stay-Level Quality Measure
(QM) reports would be unavailable in the CASPER Reporting application while corrections
were being made. Stays were mistakenly being included in the report for the newly
added **NQF #3235 Hospice and Palliative Care Composite Process Measure -
Comprehensive Assessment at Admission** when the admission date for the stay fell
within the requested reporting period, regardless of the discharge date. Therefore, any
report requested on or after February 14, 2018, included patient stays with discharge dates
that fell after the requested reporting period end date.

Please be advised that this issue has been resolved and the **Hospice-Level and Hospice
Patient Stay-Level Quality Measure (QM) Reports are once again available.** The data for
the new NQF #3235 Hospice and Palliative Care Composite Process Measure -
Comprehensive Assessment at Admission measure has been recalculated so that only stays
where the discharge date falls within the requested reporting period are included in the
report. If the discharge record for a stay is missing, the patient stay is included in the report if
the admission date falls within the requested reporting period.

**Continue Reading**

**DEA Raises Production Quotas for Opioid Injectables**

*Source: NHPCO*

After months of significant shortages for injectable opioids, the Drug Enforcement
Administration has raised production quotas for drug manufacturers to mitigate the shortage
of opioid injectables. It is likely that relief is still some months away. Federal regulators and
pharmaceutical manufacturers are trying to fill a void left by Pfizer, which produces about
60% of the small-dose presentations of injectable morphine, fentanyl and other opioids.
Pfizer has been mired in manufacturing hang-ups since July. [Modern Healthcare.com April
18, 2018]

**CMS Releases Changes to Hospice Cost Report**

*Source: NHPCO*

On April 13, CMS announced changes to the Hospice Cost and Data Report which will
provide more detail for CMS and some changes in reporting costs. The changes also include
an option for electronic signatures. The changes are in effect for cost reporting periods ending on or after December 31, 2017. NHPCO issued a Regulatory Alert with more details.

QUESTIONS? CONCERNS? COMMENTS?
Connecticut Association for Healthcare at Home
Tracy Wodatch
VP of Clinical & Regulatory Services
wodatch@cthealthcareathome.org

Website Association Members Calendar Legislative Regulatory Contact

CT Healthcare at Home, 110 Barnes Road, Wallingford, CT 06492
SafeUnsubscribe™ {recipient’s email}
Forward this email | Update Profile | About our service provider
Sent by wodatch@cthealthcareathome.org in collaboration with

Try it free today