*UPDATE: Please disregard the previous Clinical & Regulatory Update 2018-11 that was sent yesterday. This is the actual 2018 Clinical & Regulatory Update 2018-11. We apologize for any confusion.

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

Right to Try Becomes Federal Law. What Does it Mean for Home Health and Hospice?
Source: NAHC

President Donald J. Trump signed into law the Right to Try Act on Wednesday, May 30, 2018, a piece of legislation he called for in his last State of the Union address, and predicted it would save a "tremendous number of lives." Opinion is divided on how many lives it will save, if any, but it could have an impact on hospice care in the United States.

The new law gives terminally ill patients the right to seek experimental drug treatments that remain in clinical trials and have not been approved by the FDA, but "have passed Phase 1 of the Food and Drug Administration's approval process." Supporters of the law, like President Trump, say it will save many lives. Detractors say it is unnecessary, changes little for patients, but could have a detrimental impact on the FDA's ability to safeguard the public against ineffective or harmful drugs.

Continue Reading

Study: Home Health Increases Activity Levels of Patients
Source: NACH

Improving a patient's mobility and activity is a key indicator of quality of care and a new report from the Commonwealth Fund found that the percentage of home health patients who improved in walking and moving around rose significantly from 2013 to 2016.
The study found the improvement in mobility of home health patients was not regional or a statistical blip; substantial improvement occurred in all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

David Grabowski, a health policy professor at Harvard University touted the benefits of home health care in an [interview with CNBC](https://www.cnbc.com/2018/09/03/david-grabowski-home-health-care.html).

**Continue Reading**

**CMS Plans to Bring Back Pre-Claim Review**

*Source: NAHC*

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) plans to bring back an altered version of the pre-claim review (PCR) demonstration that was [halted at the end of March 2017](https://www.cms.gov/Newsroom/MediaReleaseDatabase/Fast-Facts/2017/05-12-2017-Escalation.html) after it was revealed that it found mere paperwork errors instead of the fraud that it was intended to uncover, [according to May 29 offer for public comment by CMS](https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Announcements/05-29-2017-PCRAOFC-PCR-02.html).

This newer version of PCR would compel providers in demonstration states to submit all claims for review either before or after payment has been made or suffer a 25 percent cut in payment. In addition, providers that do not submit claims could be subject to Recovery Audit Contractor reviews. The original version of PCR did not have a post-payment review option.

**Continue Reading**

**HOSPICE**

**Proposed Rule Listening Session on June 13**

NHPCO has scheduled the Listening Session for the FY2019 Hospice Wage Index Proposed Rule. The listening session for members will include a description of the major provisions of the proposed rule and will ask for input and discussion on issues that should be included in NHPCO’s comment letter. The listening session will be held on June 13 at 11:00 a.m. ET. The call-in number is 518-530-1840, and the ID: 740-064-448. NHPCO looks forward to your input.

**Palliative Care Reduces Suicide Risk for Veterans with Lung Cancer**

*Source: NAHC*

A [2017 study](https://www.nahc.org/articles/palliative-care-reduces-suicide-risk-advanced-stage-lung-cancer-veterans) found that patients with lung cancer commit suicide at more than four times the rate as the general population, according to study results presented at the American Thoracic Society International Conference. The results of the study demonstrated that suicide risks for lung cancer patients increased far more than it did for patients with other types of cancer.

However, new findings presented at the American Thoracic Society International Conference earlier this month appeared to show that palliative care reduces the risk of suicide among advanced stage lung cancer patients who are also veterans. The study utilized health care information about Veterans Administration patients diagnosed with advanced lung cancer between 2007 and 2013.

**Continue Reading**
NHPCO Hosts Virtual Conference: Mastering Transitions of Care

Come join us for this "In-Person" Virtual Program on Wednesday, July 18th and Thursday, July 19th at the CHA Building, 110 Barnes Road, Wallingford, CT 06492 from 12:00pm - 5:15pm.

4 CE/CME Credit Hours for each day, but you must attend in person both days to receive any credit hours.

The conference will help hospice and palliative care professionals improve their care during "transitions" - the challenging times when providing excellent continuity, communication, continuing assessment and quality care are most critical yet sometimes go awry.

Click here to view full brochure and option to register.