HOME HEALTH

CMS Proposed Rule for Home Health "Needs More Work"
Source: NAHC

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued its proposed home health rule on Monday, July 2, 2018, and the National Association for Home Care & Hospice (NAHC) has been poring over the 600-page rule ever since to assess the challenges and opportunities it presents to providers and patients around the country.

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Average Visits Per Day for Each Home Health Discipline
Source: HHL’s 2018 Home Health Clinician Productivity Survey

The data below show the average number of home health visits per day performed by discipline. The data below are based on 144 responses to HHL’s 2018 Home Health Clinician Productivity Survey. Visits are not weighted.

One major drain on employee productivity is turnover. (See story.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Discipline</th>
<th>Required number of visits in 2018</th>
<th>Actual number of visits in 2018</th>
<th>Actual number of visits in 2017</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RN</td>
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<td>PT</td>
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<td>5.09</td>
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<td>OT</td>
<td>5.07</td>
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<tr>
<td>ST</td>
<td>4.69</td>
<td>4.16</td>
<td>4.02</td>
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<td>MSW</td>
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<td>Aide</td>
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<td>LPN/LVN</td>
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<td>5.93</td>
<td>5.99</td>
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Audit Potentially Avoidable Events to Get Ahead of Surveys, Succeed with QAPI

By focusing on potentially avoidable event measures as part of its QAPI program, Phoenix Home Care found ways to rise to greater heights of care quality.

The strategy also helped the Springfield, Mo.-based agency prepare for surveyor scrutiny under the revised Home Health Conditions of Participation (CoPs).

The agency's percentage of patients who were transferred to the hospital or other inpatient facility related to injuries sustained from a fall improved to 2.13% in March 2018.

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HOSPICE

NHPCO Files Comments on FY2019 Hospice Wage Index Proposed Rule

NHPCO’s comments include identified issues in the data monitoring analysis, physician assistants, clarification on hospice quality reporting components and comments and concerns on changes to Hospice Compare. Read the NHPCO comment letter.

When a Health Insurer Also Wants to Be a Hospice Company

Humana is teaming up with two investment firms to become the nation’s largest provider of hospice care, dominating a rapidly growing - and controversial - business.

Death has always been lucrative enterprise, whether it involves mahogany caskets or teams of estate and tax lawyers. But hospice, the business of caring for those who are nearing death, has become a booming multibillion-dollar industry that is attracting more and more for-profit companies, including one of the nation’s major insurers.

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PCHETA Legislation Moving Forward

The Palliative Care Hospice Education and Training Act (PCHETA) was advanced by the House of Representatives Energy and Commerce Committee Subcommittee on Health June 27. This bipartisan, bicameral legislation would provide palliative medicine training in a variety of settings, including hospice. Advocates are needed to voice their support for passing
More Medicare Beneficiaries Dying at Home
Source: NHCPO

A new research article published this week in JAMA reports that: "Among Medicare fee-for-service beneficiaries who died in 2015 compared with 2000, there was a lower likelihood of dying in an acute care hospital, an increase and then stabilization of intensive care unit use during the last month of life, and an increase and then decline in health care transitions during the last 3 days of life." Visit the JAMA website to find the article, "Site of Death, Place of Care, and Health Care Transitions Among US Medicare Beneficiaries, 2000-2015."