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

Non-Emergency Medical Transport through Veyo Continues to be a Problem in CT

As many of our providers have reported to the Association, Veyo (the Department of Social Services (DSS) NEMT broker) continues to get poor reviews from consumers and providers.

Representative Cathy Abercrombie now leads a work group that meets monthly to discuss these issues and work on solutions. This work group met Wednesday July 18th.

Hartford Courant published this article following the meeting:

Representing the home health providers on this work group is Bree Sanca (Administrator at Salute Home Care). Click here to read her overview from the meeting.

Please continue to send your concerns to Tracy Wodatch (wodatch@cthealthcareathome.org) to ensure we have any ongoing trends from our providers.

To report specific concerns to DSS, contact Roderick Winstead (Roderick.winstead@ct.gov) and to Veyo, by calling 855-478-7350 or go to their website at https://ct.ridewithveyo.com/contact/

New CMS OASIS Q&As Offer Additional Guidance on Physician-Ordered ROC Dates

Source: HHL

Further detail on what constitutes an acceptable physician-ordered resumption of care (ROC) is among key guidance found within CMS quarterly OASIS Q&As released July 16.

The new, four-page Q&A document includes nine questions and responses on a range of
The Q&As do not offer guidance on how to respond to six new items planned for implementation on OASIS-D Jan. 1, 2019. "It was just too early I think," says Amanda Gartner, manager of compliance and OASIS education with The Corridor Group in Overland Park, Kan.

**Department of Labor Rules on when Workers from Home Care Registries are Employees**

*Source: NAHC*

A memo from the United States Department of Labor Wage and Hour Division to field staff states that workers from home care registries will, for the purposes of the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA), be normally be considered independent contractors except under certain conditions.

Home care registries typically match elderly and disabled patients with caregivers, but the registries exit the transaction there, providing no other services of their own. "Instead," reads the memo, "a registry typically provides matchmaking and referral services to the client by providing access to its database of qualified, pre-screened, and vetted caregivers. A registry may confirm caregiver credentials, conduct background checks, contact professional references, and engage in other quality-control measures. A registry also typically obtains information from the caregivers about the type of work they are willing to perform, their target compensation, their availability, and other personal preferences when working with clients."

Under the Obama administration the classified workers found through registries as employees of the registries themselves and therefore covered by overtime and minimum wage laws. However, the Department of Labor withdrew that guidance in 2017 after inauguration of the Trump administration.

**Future of Home Health & Hospice will be Full of Challenges and Opportunities, Says Fred Bentley of Avalere**

*Source: NAHC*

The "silver tsunami" - about 10,000 Americans turning 65 every day - that has been a recurring topic at NAHC Report, is still a few years away from crashing, but that day is approaching and while the demographic change holds great promise for a generation unwilling to be shunted into institutional care, policymakers are likely to be moving in the direction of reining in health care spending and resisting calls to raise payment rates.

That's the encouraging, but cautionary message delivered by Avalere Vice President Fred Bentley to the 2018 Financial Management Conference during his keynote speech on Monday, July 16.

While Baby Boomers are joining Medicare in ever-greater numbers, the vast majority of them are not yet consuming lots of expensive health care, but the day is coming when that will change, perhaps as soon as 2021 or 2022, said Bentley.
Revised Standards of Practice Released: NHPCO Releases Updated Edition of Standards of Practice for Hospice Programs
July 12, 2018

Newly revised resource built around core quality components of care

(Alexandria, Va) - With the growth and visibility of hospice care in the U.S., it is essential that hospice organizations offer the highest levels of quality care and demonstrate a commitment to organizational excellence. To help providers achieve these goals, the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization is proud to announce that the newly revised edition of its seminal publication, Standards of Practice for Hospice Programs, is now available to its membership.

The Standards of Practice are organized around the core components of quality in hospice care, which provide a framework for developing and implementing Quality Assessment and Performance Improvement. Specific standards and practice examples are included for each component, and appendices provide additional standards for a hospice inpatient facility, nursing facility hospice care, and a hospice residential care facility.

New NHPCO Compliance Certificate Program

NHPCO is launching its NEW Compliance Certificate Program this year at their Interdisciplinary Conference in New Orleans. The new training will be held during the pre-conference on Sunday November 3rd and 4th.

A little background...NHPCO’s Regulatory Committee (of which Tracy Wodatch is an active member) has a smaller work group who have worked diligently on the curriculum for this new certificate program. It’s a great opportunity for you or your staff to enhance their knowledge regarding Hospice regulatory compliance.

Below is the new podcast introducing both the Compliance Certificate Program as well as the launch of NHPCO’s new Standards of Practice. Also, below are the links to registration for the Pre-conference.

Episode 44: Hospice Compliance Certificate Program & Standards of Practice

We are excited to announce our new Hospice Compliance Certificate Program! Jon R. and Judi share why this program is important, how you can get involved and what it means for your organization. Also hear a discussion on the newly revised Standards of Practice that members can download free-of-charge; an incredibly valuable resource addressing quality and compliance.

Click here to listen to the podcast

Quick Links to Resources Mentioned in this Podcast:
Your Help is Needed to Pass PCHETA Legislation

Source: NHPCO

Last week the Palliative Care and Hospice Education and Training Act cleared markup in the House Energy and Commerce Committee, paving the way for it to be scheduled for a vote in the House of Representatives. This is a great moment for the many hospice and palliative care providers and supporters who have spent years working on this legislation. Now, we need everyone to ask their Representative to put PCHETA on the calendar, and vote YES! Visit the [PCHETA Action Center](#) and ask your Rep. to support this important legislation!