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TOP STORY

NHPCO Meets with MedPAC
Edo Banach and other members of the NHPCO leadership team met with Medicare Payment Advisory Commission leadership earlier today in Washington, DC. Among the key points discussed were strategic priorities for NHPCO, recent MedPAC recommendations, MedPAC thoughts on the field, and ways in which we can support the work done by this important advisory body to Congress. NHPCO wants to be sure our members are aware of ongoing efforts to engage with federal agencies, the administration, and Congress.

REGULATORY AND COMPLIANCE

CMS Announces New State Codes
CMS posted CR 11065 (PDF) which outlines that CA, FL, LA, MI, MS, OH, PA, TN and TX have exhausted its supply of CMS Certification Numbers (CCNs) for multiple provider types. Consequently, CMS is assigning a new State Code for these states. The effective date for these new codes is July 1, 2019.

CMS 2018 Top 10 Hospice Survey Deficiencies
NHPCO has updated resources to include 2018 CMS Top 10 Hospice Survey Deficiencies. NHPCO provides members with a top Ten Hospice Survey Deficiencies Comparison which is a rolling three-year comparison chart of the top ten hospice survey deficiencies cited by CMS. Also provided is a Top Ten Hospice Survey Deficiencies Audit Tool with the 2018 deficiencies. Access these helpful resources.
Tricare Now Accepting Pediatric Concurrent Care
Despite 2017 legislation allowing Tricare pediatric beneficiaries to begin receiving concurrent hospice care, the policy has not yet been fully implemented. Tricare will be issuing regulations in 2019 and until then Tricare now stands ready to approve claims waivers for any child enrolled in hospice care and simultaneously receiving curative treatments. Waivers will be reviewed and approved by the Chief Medical Officer of Tricare. NHPCO will be meeting with the Chief Medical Officer of Tricare to discuss the implementation of concurrent care and to get more details. In the meantime, the Tricare for Kids Coalition will be assisting providers and families in the waiver process. For more information on processing a waiver to receive concurrent care for your pediatric patients, please contact Kara Oakley kara@karaoakley.com at Tricare for Kids Coalition.

QUALITY

HQRDP Data Collection for FY2021 Reporting Year Began January 1
This is the first quarter for Hospice Quality Reporting Program data collection for the FY2021 reporting year (data collection period 01/01/19 – 12/31/19). For Hospice Item Set (HIS) data, remember that the Timeliness Threshold Requirement for the FY2021 reporting year and beyond is 90%. This means that to be determined compliant with HIS requirements, hospices must submit at least 90% of their HIS records on time (within 30 days of the patient’s admission or discharge date). There are no size or newness exemptions for HIS reporting. For more information on the Timeliness Compliance Threshold, please refer to the Timeliness Compliance Threshold Fact Sheet in the Downloads section of Hospice Item Set webpage.

Training Materials Available: Updates to Public Reporting in Fiscal Year 2019
CMS presented a two-part webinar on December 13, 2018 discussing the Hospice and Palliative Care Composite Process Measure – Comprehensive Assessment at Admission and the 4.5 Month Data Correction Deadline for the Public Reporting policy update. The presentation slides, speaker notes, and transcript, from this webinar are now available for download as a combined.zip file. A recording of the webinar is also available on YouTube.

ADVOCACY AND LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

What to Expect in 2019
Check out the Hospice Action Network video “What to Expect In 2019” which provides a brief recap of 2019 federal policy changes, an overview of the federal policy landscape for 2019, and describes what you can do to support the My Hospice Campaign!

NHPCO Applauds Introduction of Bipartisan Legislation to Expand Palliative Care Education and Access
NHPCO commends introduction of H.R. 647, a bipartisan bill which focuses on expanding the interdisciplinary palliative care workforce and increasing awareness and promoting education and research among patients and providers. Sponsored by Representatives Eliot Engel (D-NY), Tom Reed (R-NY), Yvette Clarke (D-NY), Buddy Carter (R-GA), Frank Pallone (D-NJ), Greg Walden (R-OR) and 25 co-sponsors, the bill is similar to the Palliative Care and Hospice Education Training Act (PCHETA) that passed the House with broad support last year. Read NHPCO's press release.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION

Understanding Ritual at End of Life
In this webcast, An Understanding of Ritual at End of Life, presenter Dr. Fleming-Damon explores the use of ritual at the end of life and understandings of the role rituals play in meaning making and healing for dying individuals and those who remain present with them throughout the experience. Learn more and sign up for this E-OL webcast.
Last Chance to Register for “The Interdisciplinary Team” Online Module
It’s not too late to sign up for this Level II, online instructor-led module of the Hospice Manager Development Program. The Interdisciplinary Team: Key Skills for Hospice Managers is geared toward new and developing managers who share the belief that the interdisciplinary team can make or break exceptional care. Learn the skills needed to lead and manage teams to ensure their optimal functioning. Hurry and register for this module beginning February 4, 2019. Sign up now!

Hours Left to Catch LAC Early-Bird
The early-bird registration rate for the 2019 Leadership and Advocacy Conference in Washington, DC, ends today, January 31. Register today and save!

NOTES FROM NHPCO

Share Your News on ehospiceUSA
ehospiceUSA is a news and informational website to which NHPCO provides the content. If you’re announcing a new senior leader, an important award, expansion, or other news about your organization, please be sure to share press releases with us; email them to jradulovic@nhpco.org for consideration (a photo is also helpful). Here is some recent member news from January that you’ll find on ehospiceUSA:

- VITAS Healthcare Celebrates 40th Anniversary
- Chapters Health System Expands Resources to Provide Home Care in Seven Counties
- HPCG Welcomes New Director of Beacon Place

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF HOSPICE AND PALLIATIVE PROFESSIONALS

Upcoming Chat: Where Are All the Volunteers?
Volunteer recruitment is something that seems to be getting more and more challenging with the changing times. Technology continues to advance; social media is hopping and yet many of us find ourselves struggling to find volunteers despite putting the information out there. Join the NCHPP Volunteer/Volunteer Management Section chat and share some diverse and simple ways to recruit volunteers for your agency from the very basics to some “out of the box” methods. Hosted on Thursday, February 14 at 3:00 p.m. ET. Register online.

*A reminder that continuing education is not available for our free chats.

Chat Recordings on MyNHPCO

- New to Hospice? How to Survive & Thrive
  January 23 – Social Worker chat recording – Check it out on MyNHPCO.

- Quality Messages to Leadership and the Front Line: Ensuring performance Improvement Results
  January 24 Quality Assessment/Performance Improvement chat recording – Check it out on MyNHPCO.

Check out the full chat schedule on MyNHPCO

MY HOSPICE

#MyHospice on Social Media
If you follow #MyHospice on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram, you’ll notice many of your peers in the field are getting involved in the campaign and sharing what hospice means to them. You can too! Just print out this banner, tell the world what hospice means to you, and have a friend or colleague take your photo (selfies work too). Don’t forget to use #MyHospice in your post so we can track it.
NewsBriefs is a weekly publication provided to members of the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization.
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