



# IHO Update

*Bi-weekly News for Hospice Professionals in Iowa*

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Sept. 28, 2007

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## **Registration Underway for 2007 IHO Fall Conference**

Register today and be sure to get your spot at the 2007 IHO Fall Conference, “Where We’ve Been and Where We’re Heading!” This marks the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of IHO and we have a wonderful line-up of education sessions devoted to those both new to hospice and those who have been involved with either IHO or hospice for the last 25 years!

This year’s keynoters feature Judi Lund Person, vice president, Division of Quality End-of-Life Care, NHPCO, discussing “The 10 Components of Quality Care” and “Hospice Self-Assessment;” Sally Baskey, who will present, “Laughter: My Drug of Choice;” and Rita Paskowitz will give participants hands-on experience in the use of stories to bridge the distance with those dealing with grief.

More than 25 breakout sessions include topics such as leadership, communication, marketing, compassion fatigue, boundaries, training volunteers, hospice education, clinical issues and much more!

### **How to Register**

Register online at [www.iowahospice.org](http://www.iowahospice.org) under the “Calendar Tab” or download the registration form attached to this week’s *IHO Update* and mail or fax in to IHO.

**Registration deadline is October 17.**

### **Local TV Anchor to Emcee Honored Volunteer Ceremony**

IHO has secured special guest, Katie Piper, a TV anchor with KCCI/News Channel 8 in Des Moines and hospice volunteer to emcee this year’s ceremony. Special music will be shared and volunteers will receive a certificate and flower along with name recognition in front of their peers. *Please note:* If you have nominated a volunteer to be recognized at the

Volunteer Recognition Ceremony on October 24, they must be registered for the conference. Please note the “volunteer program rate” section on the Registration Form.

### **Conference Handouts**

Conference handouts will be available at [www.iowahospice.org](http://www.iowahospice.org) under the “Calendar Tab” beginning the week of October 1. Please download handouts for those sessions you are planning to attend and bring them with you to the conference. There will be no hard copies available at the conference. A CD with speaker handouts will be given to all participants upon check-in at the Registration Desk.

### **Lodging**

If you are planning to stay overnight in Ames, please note the special rates for The Gateway Hotel & Conference Center ends **October 1**. The special rates for The Baymont Inn expire **October 2**.

## **IHO Director/Care Coordinator Annual Peer Group Meeting Set for October 23**

Join Martha Tecca, senior director of hospice with OCS, and a long-time partner in IHO’s efforts to support Iowa hospices with data, on October 23 at the Central Prairie Room at The Hotel at Gateway Center in Ames. This morning session will focus on the QAPI snapshot program, data capture and reporting processes, benchmark interpretation guidelines, and strategic management approaches utilizing the data and concrete performance improvement techniques.

An afternoon networking session will then take place to discuss hot topics in hospice. Marcia Gowdy with Heartland Hospice in Red Oak will facilitate the afternoon.

To register, fill out and send in the form attached with this week’s *IHO Update* or register online at [www.iowahospice.org](http://www.iowahospice.org) under the “Calendar Tab.”

## **CMS Implements Survey Revisit Fees**

The 2007 Continuing Appropriations Resolution (Pub. L. No. 110-5, H.J.Res.20, §20615(b)(2007)) directed the Department of Health and Human Services to charge user fees necessary for conducting revisit surveys on health care facilities cited for deficiencies during initial certification, recertification, or substantiated complaint surveys. The user fees apply to many Medicare–certified providers and suppliers including hospices and home health agencies. Revisit surveys are performed when there are findings of deficiencies in patient care or processes that were identified in an earlier survey and are conducted to assure that the deficiencies have been corrected.

On September 19, CMS published a final rule establishing the revisit fees (see chart below). The fees were effective on September 19, the date of publication of the final rule, and until end of the 2007 federal fiscal year, which concludes on September 30, 2007, unless CMS receives Congressional authority to continue the fees.

**Final Fee Schedule for Revisit Surveys (Onsite and Offsite)**

Facility	Fee assessed per offsite revisit survey	Fee assessed per onsite revisit survey
Skilled Nursing Facility and Nursing Facility	\$168	\$2,072
Hospitals	\$168	\$2,554
Home Health Agency	\$168	\$1,613
Hospice	\$168	\$1,736
Ambulatory Surgical Centers	\$168	\$1,669
Rural Health Clinic	\$168	\$ 851
End Stage Renal Disease Facility	\$168	\$1,490

The revisit user fee is included in the President's proposed FY 2008 budget. The Senate version of the 2008 HHS Appropriations bill (S.1710) does include authority for the fees, but the House version (H.R.3043) does not. However, the continuing budget resolution will likely provide authority for the revisit fees until Congress resolves the 2008 budget. Questions regarding this issue can be directed to Shannon Strickler ([stricklers@ihaonline.org](mailto:stricklers@ihaonline.org)) at IHO.

**Hospice House Prepares for October Grand Opening**

The new Great River Hospice House in West Burlington, Iowa, opened its doors for public tours on Saturday, Sept. 22.

Located at 1306 Washington Rd., on the west side of Great River Medical Center's campus, the 8,500-square-foot hospice house was announced in 2006. Construction began in November. The exterior and interior feature a lodge and mission-style theme with soft, natural colors. A walkway and several gardens surround the house.

Each of the six patient and family rooms features a fireplace; home-like furniture, including a sofa-sleeper, comfortable chairs, lamps; laptop hookup; natural woodwork, a private deck; and skylight. Whirlpool baths and massages will be available for patients in the spa room. Patient meals will be prepared to order in the house's staff kitchen.

Common areas for families include a dining room, great room with a large stone fireplace, indoor and outdoor children's play areas, kitchen, laundry room, and serenity room. The offices of Great River Home Health Care and Hospice are located on the lower level.

Great River Hospice House is scheduled to open for patients Wednesday, October 3.

## **Cahaba Update**

CMS has now posted Q&As on their Web site to address provider questions they have received relating to CR 5567. These will be updated as questions are received. In addition, a third educational event will be added on November 15 in relation to this CR. This should be posted to the Calendar of Events soon.

Questions and Answers About CMS Transmittal 1304, Change Request 5567 “Reporting of Additional Data to Describe Services on Hospice Claims”

[http://www.cms.hhs.gov/PropMedicareFeeSvcPmtGen/downloads/Questions\\_and\\_Answers\\_About\\_CR5567.pdf](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/PropMedicareFeeSvcPmtGen/downloads/Questions_and_Answers_About_CR5567.pdf)

## **NHPCO News**

- **CMS publishes 2008 Medicaid rates**

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) announced the FY 2008 Medicaid payment rates for hospice care furnished on or after October 1, 2007 through September 30, 2008 (CR 5685). The Medicaid hospice payment rates are calculated based on the annual hospice rates established under Medicare and provide for an annual increase in payment rates for hospice care services. NHPCO has distributed a regulatory alert to the membership regarding the 2008 Medicaid Hospice Rates. The alert can viewed in its entirety on the Regulatory Web page under [Current Regulatory Issues](#).

- **NPI Update**

The [National Provider Identifier Registry](#) and the [downloadable data file](#) are now available from CMS. With this registry, providers can look up the NPI numbers for other providers, including physicians. In addition, the final module in the NPI Training Package is now available from CMS. Module 4, [Data Dissemination](#), describes the data CMS will be disclosing and the policy by which CMS will make the data available.

## **Enclosures**

IHO Fall Conference Brochure

IHO Director/Care Coordinator Meeting Set for October 23

