



IHO Update

Bi-weekly News for Hospice Professionals in Iowa

May 2, 2008

CMS Eliminates GIP Visit Reporting by Contract Staff and Reissues CR5567

IHO Seeks Presentations for Fall Conference

District Meeting Dates

Iowa Hospice Organization QAPI Snapshot - FY 2007 Reports Now Available

Another Opportunity to Join the IHO/OCS Quarterly and

Annual Benchmarking Effort

Quality Partner Program Conference Calls

Cahaba GBA Notes

CMS Eliminates GIP Visit Reporting by Contract Staff and Reissues CR5567

CMS has apparently listened to the hospice community on the insurmountable problem of reporting the inpatient level of care visits by non-hospice employees currently required in Change Request 5567. CMS will be reissuing CR5567 and the requirement for counting visits made by non-hospice staff in contract facilities has been "temporarily suspended" and is NOT required to be part of the visit reporting due to begin on July 1, 2008. Hospices will still be required to report the visits of hospice employees both in contracted facilities caring for the hospice's patients and in a hospice's own inpatient facility.

In addition, CMS has clarified medically reasonable and necessary visits. The word "direct" has been removed from the description of a discipline's services. The word "medically reasonable and necessary for the provision of care required by the beneficiary" has been removed. The replacement language is "reasonable and necessary for the palliation and management of the terminal illness and related conditions as described in the patient's plan of care."

CMS expects to issue new Qs & As on CR 5567 directly and post them on the CMS Web site hospice center.

IHO members advocated for changes or elimination of CR5567 in correspondence as well as visits with Iowa's congressional delegation in early April. In a meeting with CMS staff in early April, NHPCO staff and Regulatory Committee members presented the challenges of collecting visit information from contract facilities and shared concrete examples about the scope and depth of the concerns.

[Top](#)

IHO Seeks Presentations for Fall Conference

Have you heard a great hospice-related speaker recently? Do you have a question you've always wanted answered? Does your hospice have a strong program you would like to share? This is your opportunity to ensure topics you are interested in are covered at the IHO Fall Conference. The 2008 Fall Conference Call for Presentations was sent out this week. Please review the Call for Presentations and either complete the application form or pass it on to someone you think would make a great presenter.

How to Apply:

- Fill out your application online at www.iowahospice.org. The application can be found on the *Calendar* page.
- Download the application form enclosed with this week's *IHO Update* or located on the Web site under the *Calendar* Tab. Then mail or fax the application to Stacey Nay, Iowa Hospice Organization, 100 E. Grand Avenue, Des Moines, IA 50309. Fax: 515.698.5109.

Deadline:

The deadline to submit an application is **Friday, May 16, 2008**.

Questions:

Contact Stacey Nay, IHO Director of Education, 515.243.1046.

[Top](#)

District Meeting Dates

District 2

May 8, 10:00 a.m., Mason City

District 3

May 15, 1:00 p.m., Cedar Valley Hospice, Independence

District 4

July 15, Atlantic

November 18, Ames

[Top](#)

Iowa Hospice Organization QAPI Snapshot - FY 2007 Reports Now Available

IHO member hospices participating in the 2007 QAPI Snapshot survey can now view their

Fiscal Year 2007 QAPI Snapshot Report online. FY 2007 Reports will only be available to those agencies that submitted data by February 29th, 2008.

2007 Annual data will serve as a baseline for QAPI performance improvement project identification. Participating hospices are urged to complete the 2006 and 2005 FY surveys with as much data as possible. Trends are valuable demonstration of historical performance improvement (and areas of opportunity.)

To access your reports, here's what to do:

- Go to: <http://www.ocsys.com>
- Click on the Client Login link (top right-hand corner)
- Select "Hospice Login" from the drop-down menu
- Select "Login to QAPI Snapshot" button
- Enter your Agency ID and Password
- Click the Login button
- Scroll down to the "Reports Currently Available" section, and select the desired report
- *Note that if you did not submit FY 2007 data, no report for that time period will be available*

If you have questions regarding your report, or need technical assistance, contact the OCS QAPI Help Desk at QAPI@ocsys.com or calling 603.795.4802.

NOTE: Q1 2008 data is due by **Wednesday, May 7th**.

[Top](#)

Another Opportunity to Join the IHO/OCS Quarterly and Annual Benchmarking Effort

More than two dozen IHO members are currently participating in the IHO/QAPI Snapshot program. This quarterly and annual benchmark opportunity is in its second year. The program is based on the OCS QAPI Snapshot nationwide benchmarking program. It includes some 36 performance measures that are important for all hospices and are currently captured by most hospices. The measures span all areas of analysis required by the proposed hospice QAPI Condition of Participation, as well as the 10 components of quality cited by the NHPCO Quality Partners Initiative. Further, QAPI Snapshot includes a review of an agency's success in reporting data and performing in all 10 Quality Partners components.

The QAPI Snapshot is an executive-level dashboard that includes performance analysis covering quality outcomes, patient volume and mix and operational measures in an easy-to-read format that includes a comprehensive set of performance measures including: quality outcomes, patient volumes and mix, quality operations and quality practices. For each report, you complete an online survey and, after a short processing time, download the completed benchmark report. If you want baseline and trends in your first report, you can enter 2006 and 2007 data.

Special Member Pricing

IHO has worked with OCS to bring IHO members this entire program for **\$600** annually per

reporting location.

Online Resources

Go to www.iowahospice.org, and click on the *Data* tab. Here you can access the following:

- **Downloadable survey.** You may download a PDF version of the online annual survey in order to prepare your systems and staff for data submission.
- **QAPI Snapshot Order Form.** Download an order form, complete it and fax it to OCS.

Join Now!

If you are just getting started with data submission, QAPI Snapshot will help you build your systems and capabilities so that you are well-prepared when the new CoPs are final.

If you have any questions, call 603-795-4802 or email QAPI@ocsys.com

IHO Member Hospices Participating in QAPI Snapshot*

- Alegent Health Hospice, Corning
- Burgess Hospice , Onawa
- Calhoun County Department of Health, Rockwell City
- Cass County Memorial Hospital Home Care, Atlantic
- Great River Hospice, Mount Pleasant
- Hospice of Dubuque, Dubuque
- Hospice of Jasper County, Newton
- Mahaska Hospice, Oskaloosa
- Hospice of Mercy, Cedar Rapids
- Iowa City Hospice, Inc., Iowa City
- Lee County Health Department Hospice, Fort Madison
- Mercy Home Care & Hospice, Clinton
- Mercy Hospice, Des Moines
- Myrtue Medical Center Hospice, Harlan
- Stewart Memorial Community Hospice, Lake City
- Unity Healthcare - Homecare/Hospice, Muscatine
- Hamilton County Public Health Services/Hospice, Webster City
- Hospice of Pella/Comfort House, Pella
- Hospice of Washington County, Washington
- Cedar Valley Hospice, Waterloo
- St. Luke's Hospice, Cedar Rapids
- Homeward Hospice/Israel Family Hospice House, Ames
- Storm Lake Area Hospice, Storm Lake
- Hospice of Central Iowa, West Des Moines
- Hospice of Central Iowa – Boone, Boone
- Hospice of Central Iowa – Centerville, Centerville
- Hospice of Central Iowa – Knoxville, Knoxville
- Hospice of Central Iowa - Mount Ayr, Mount Ayr
- Hospice of Central Iowa - Mount Pleasant, Mount Pleasant
- Hospice of Central Iowa – Perry, Perry
- Greater Regional Home Care & Hospice, Creston
- St. Anthony Hospice, Carroll
- Iowa River Hospice, Marshalltown
- Heart of Iowa Hospice, West Union
- Hospice for Wright County, Clarion

- Hospice of Southwest Iowa, Council Bluffs

*Summary:

- 30 Active Total Participating clients in totality
- 20 Active Participating clients who have signed on under the 2008 program
- 10 Active Participating clients who signed up under the 2007 program whose subscription will end in June if not renewed

[Top](#)

Quality Partner Program Conference Calls

The second conference call to address the elements of the Quality Partners Program took place on April 15 and covered the Performance Management section. The next call will be held on Tuesday, May 13 beginning at 10:00 a.m. and will cover the Inclusion and Access section of the Quality Partners Assessment.

To register for this and future calls, complete the attached registration form and return it to IHO.

[Top](#)

Cahaba GBA Notes

A new look to the Cahaba Web site is being developed for home health and hospice providers. This change will improve provider access to home health and hospice information, as well as Web site search results. You will continue to access the Cahaba Web site at <https://www.cahabagba.com/index.htm> and select the “Home Health and Hospice Providers” link.

Much of the information on the current Cahaba site will still be available on the redesigned site. The most significant change is the conversion of the home health and hospice Medicare Reference Guides (MRGs) from a paper-based manual format, to specific Web pages. Information from the “Claims Filing” and “Coverage Guideline” sections of the MRG will be available under the new “Claims” and “LCDs/Coverage” pages of the redesigned site.

Note: If you have Web pages bookmarked as your favorites, you will need to delete the bookmarks, and add new bookmarks for the specific home health and hospice Web pages. Web pages that you currently have bookmarked will still exist; however, the pages will soon be revised to remove home health and hospice information, and the Web pages will only contain information specific to fiscal intermediary providers (e.g., hospitals, skilled nursing facilities).

Please take time to review and share with your staff the following summary of the home health and hospice Web pages. For a preview of the “Home Health Claims Filing” page, go to: https://www.cahabagba.com/images/hh_claims_demo.jpg

- Home—This page provides links to the latest news, upcoming educational events and

the most common (hot) links accessed by home health and hospice providers.

- News—The “News” page provides links to articles issued by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and Cahaba, as well as a links to access the Home Health & Hospice Medicare A Newsline and to subscribe to the Cahaba’s E-mail Notification Service.
- Claims—The “Claims” page includes claims filing/processing information, Fiscal Intermediary Standard System (FISS) processing issues, information about Medicare Secondary Payer (MSP), and rates and fee schedules. This section includes information previously found in the “Claims Filing” section of the Medicare Reference Guide.
- Education—On the “Education” page, you will find educational materials, upcoming educational events, online courses, Cahaba University, which provides resources for new Medicare providers, and information about the Comprehensive Error Rate Testing (CERT) Program, as well as Advisory Group member lists and meeting minutes.
- EDI—The Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) page provides a variety of information related to electronic transaction formats, connectivity, downloads, and supplemental documentation.
- Enrollment—The “Enrollment” page offers information for providers about enrolling in the Medicare program.
- Financial—This page offers information about audits, cost reporting, overpayments, Provider Statistical and Reimbursement (PS&R) reports, and information about the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).
- Appeals—The “Appeals” page provides information about the five levels of appeal.
- LCDs/Coverage—Access the “LCDs/Coverage” page to review active, draft, and retired local coverage determinations (LCDs), the reconsideration process, as well as national coverage determinations (NCDs). You will also find coverage guidelines for home health and hospice services, which were transitioned from the “Coverage Guidelines” section of the Medicare Reference Guides.
- Medical Review—The “Medical Review” page offers information about Medical Review activities, such as prepayment and postpayment reviews, additional development requests (ADRs) and denial reason codes. Information on these pages was previously available in the “For Your Information” section of the Medicare Reference Guide.

The following top navigation links will also be available:

- FAQ—This link provides a consolidation of all the frequently asked questions (FAQs) (e.g., 2008 HH PPS Case-Mix Refinement; Adjustment / Cancel Claims; Appeals; Beneficiary Eligibility Information), which were located previously in a variety of different Web pages.
- Contact Us—This link provides necessary information for you to call, write, or email us.
- E-Mail Service—Access this link to subscribe to Cahaba’s e-mail notification service to receive periodic e-mails (listserv) messages telling you about new or updated Medicare information.
- Forms—This link provides access to a variety of Cahaba forms and forms available on the CMS Web site.
- Glossary—This link offers definitions of terms and explains acronyms found on the

Web site.

- CMS Links—This link offers access to a variety of links to the CMS Web site.

[Top](#)