



IHO Update

Bi-weekly News for Hospice Professionals in Iowa

June 27, 2008

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IHO Responds to Proposed Cuts in Hospice Reimbursement

This is a crucial time in the effort to halt cuts to hospice reimbursement. The Iowa Hospice Organization has taken several steps in response to the proposed elimination of the “Budget Neutrality Adjustment Factor.”

Letters on behalf of IHO were sent to Senators Harkin and Grassley via NHPCO’s online Legislative Action Center.

The financial models and an analysis of the policy were forwarded to Mike Park, staffer with the Senate Finance Committee who works with Senator Grassley.

A comment letter, drafted by Shannon Strickler, was forwarded to CMS on behalf of IHO members.

Please take a moment today to contact Senator Grassley and Senator Harkin to let them know the impact this legislation will have on your hospice. Email and phone contact information are available on the IHO web site (www.iowahospice.com) or you may use the NHPCO Legislative Action Center (<http://capwiz.com/nhpco/home/>).

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New Medicare Hospice Conditions of Participation Released

The new Medicare Hospice Conditions of Participation were officially released June 5. You may link directly to the Federal Register publication through the IHO Web site: www.iowahospice.com. The effective date will be 180 days after publication, or December 2, 2008.

To assist IHO member hospices in complying, IHO is offering two different learning opportunities.

Regional Workshops Offer Overview of New CoPs

The first will be via **three regional workshops scheduled for June and July**. The first session was held Friday, June 27 in Des Moines in front of a standing room only crowd of more than 70. Two sessions remain, one in **Storm Lake on Monday, June 30** and one in **Hiawatha on Tuesday, July 22**. The Storm Lake session is full, but seats remain for the July session. **Please note: The times have changed for these workshops** since they were first announced. Registration is at 9:00 am; workshop begins at 9:30 a.m. and will adjourn at 4:00 p.m.

The workshops will share overview information obtained through NHPCO's train-the-trainer conference, including a review of the new Medicare Hospice Conditions of Participation (CoPs) with a focus on what hospices need to know and do; discuss approaches to meeting the new requirements in each condition and standard; and identify compliance challenges and strategies for overcoming them.

These workshops are made possible due to comprehensive training that NHPCO conducted for designated representatives from each state earlier this month. Attending the training on behalf of IHO were IHO President-elect Chris Oleson and Board Secretary Lori Bishop, and IHO lobbyist Shannon Strickler. The three are now leading the regional training sessions here in Iowa.

These regional workshops are being offered at a very low cost to participants as a result of monies awarded to IHO through the Wellmark Foundation. The registration form for these regional workshops is attached.

Boot Camp Offers Intensive CoP Training

Save the time and paper from printing the new hospice CoPs and get a copy at IHO's second learning opportunity – the **Hospice Regulatory Boot Camp**, sponsored by IHO, in conjunction with Weatherbee Resources, Inc. Mark your calendars now to attend this **intensive two-and-a-half day workshop for hospice professionals, Monday, August 11 - Wednesday, August 13**. The cost for this workshop will be \$695 per person, \$595 per person for groups of two or more from one organization.

The Hospice Regulatory Boot Camp was created in response to a need for an in-depth program that covers all aspects of the Federal regulations that govern hospices. The program is designed for hospice executives, managers and supervisory staff, including program CEOs, clinical directors and compliance officers. Whether new to hospice (the program is an excellent orientation to the hospice regulatory environment) or a seasoned hospice professional, the information, resources and discussion provided during this two-and-a-half day program will challenge, inform and guide participants through the regulatory maze that all hospice programs must navigate.

The program will be held at the West Des Moines Sheraton Hotel. A sleeping room block has been arranged. The registration brochure is attached. For more information, contact Stacey Nay at 515.243.1046.

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Free Seminar for Older Iowans and Their Caregivers

The Iowa Department of Elder Affairs and Iowa Legal Aid's Legal Hotline for Older Iowans are sponsoring a pair of seminars for older Iowans and their caregivers. These free seminars will focus on education related to Medicaid and other programs to help pay for nursing home and other expenses, ensuring that legal affairs are in order, and avoiding problems with creditors and identity theft.

These seminars will be held at 25 sites around the state. For more information on the seminars, call

1-800-992-8161 or go to <http://www.iowalegalaid.org/link.cfm?2260>.

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Spanish Flyers Available from Caring Connections

Caring Connections is offering up to 100 free copies of each of the following Spanish language flyers:

- *Decisiones al Final de la Vida: Planes Anticipados para el Cuidado de la Salud (End-of-Life Decisions: Advance Care Planning)*
- *Planeando Para el Cuidado a Largo Plazo (Planning for Long Term Care)*
- *Cuidados Palliativos (Palliative Care)*

Boost your Spanish-language outreach and order your free flyers today by calling the HelpLine at 800-658-8898 or emailing caringinfo@nhpco.org. Flyers are available on a first-come basis.

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Grant Opportunity for Utilization of the Arts in a Health Care Setting

Johnson & Johnson, working in partnership with the Society for the Arts in Healthcare, seeks to promote the use of the arts to enhance the health care experience for patients, their families and caregivers. Since 2001 the organization has provided funding to 115 programs in the U.S. and Canada.

Proposals are now being sought from health care and/or arts organizations that have established arts in health care programs with evidence of positive impact. The deadline is August 8, 2008. For information, visit the [Society for Arts in Healthcare](#) Web site.

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Hospice News Network

Hospices are generally pleased with the new CoPs. Attorney Mary Michal says, “The CoPs ... will require that hospices engage in considerable compliance efforts, [but] overall they contain a strong emphasis on promoting quality patient care.” Judi Lund Person, of NHPCO, adds, “We were pleased that many of the suggestions made by [the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization] during the public comment period for the proposed rule were incorporated into the final rule.” (*Eli’s Home Care Week*, 6/16)

HNN is sponsored by Glatfelter Insurance Group that provides property and liability insurance for hospices and home healthcare agencies through their Hospice and Community Care Insurance Services division. Ask your insurance agent to visit their website at www.hccis.com.

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