



# IHO Update

*Bi-weekly News for Hospice Professionals in Iowa*

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October 3, 2008

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## **Online Registration Open for 2008 Fall Conference**

Register now to attend the 2008 IHO Fall Conference, **Hospice: A New Vision**. Watch for a Fall Conference brochure to arrive in your mailbox next week. The brochure also is included as an attachment to this issue of the Update.

Register online by going to the IHO web site: [www.iowahospice.org](http://www.iowahospice.org), and clicking on the Fall Conference page. You may register both staff and volunteers online, but please pay special attention as you are selecting the registration category for each person. If you have any questions regarding online registration, please contact Crystal Peters by email at [peterse@ihaonline.org](mailto:peterse@ihaonline.org) or by phone at 515-243-1046.

### **Pre-Conference Workshop**

With updates to the Medicare Hospice Conditions of Participation, changes to hospice reimbursement and increased competition among providers, now is the time to take forward-looking action that will ensure the long-term fulfillment of your hospice's mission and vision.

During this dynamic pre-conference event, Chuck Lee, a coach and speaker with the Studer Covenant Alliance, will guide Iowa hospice leaders through two key components of a new and effective approach to hospice leadership: aligning leader evaluations with hospice goals, and "Rounding for Outcomes", a systematic method to enhance leader communications with staff, patients, and referral sources. Hospice leaders who attend these informative and interactive sessions will return home with practical tools and tactics to implement right away to improve the performance of their hospice.

This full-day pre-conference workshop will be held on Monday, November 17 at the Gateway Hotel and Conference Center. Register for the pre-conference workshop by [clicking here](#).

### **Honored Volunteer Recognition**

There is exciting news about the Honored Volunteer Ceremony this year! It's moving to Hilton Coliseum. The ceremony and a lunch will be held from 11:45 am to 1:00 pm, Tuesday, November

18. Each nominated volunteer will be announced and a picture of the volunteer will be displayed on a large screen.

The move to a large arena provides the opportunity to make this a very special event as the space will accommodate several hundred. Every IHO member hospice can bring their Honored Volunteer as well other volunteers. The event will enable special recognition to a few outstanding volunteers along with the opportunity to celebrate and thank all of the wonderful hospice volunteers you count on every day.

In addition to the special thank you, there will be education sessions throughout the day that specifically target the interests of volunteers.

Register your volunteers to attend the Conference on Tuesday, or just the Recognition Ceremony and Luncheon, by [clicking here](#).

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## Efforts to End Hospice Cut Still Underway

This week, new legislation was introduced in the U.S. Senate that includes, among other provisions, a six-month delay in the implementation of the Medicare hospice rate cuts. The hospice provision in the Preserving Access to Healthcare Act of 2008 (or PATH), S. 3656, is very similar to the Medicare Hospice Protection Act. Senator Harkin is a co-sponsor of the legislation and has been leading the effort to get the hospice cut delayed. IHO and NHPCO enthusiastically support the bill.

PATH reduces the cut delay period down to 6 months and bundles the hospice provision with a handful of other important healthcare issues in order to completely offset the cost of the legislation, meaning it pays for itself and is budget neutral for the government. If no Senator objects to taking the bill up by unanimous consent, the Senate could pass PATH before adjournment under an expedited review process.

Time is running out! The hospice rate cuts began October 1, so Congress must act before they adjourn if they want to minimize the damage to more than 1.3 million patients and families that are served annually by hospice.

**YOUR IMMEDIATE HELP IS NEEDED! Please CALL Senator Grassley's office at 202/224-3744 urging him to support (or at least not block by raising an objection) the PATH bill (S. 3656). Hospice advocates can also call Senator Tom Harkin's office at 202/224-3254 thanking him for leading the effort to stop the hospice rate cuts.**

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## Annual Pain Management Seminar Scheduled

A full-day pain seminar has been scheduled for Friday, October 31 at Mercy Medical Center. This seminar will cover topics including Sickle Cell disease, pain management in the ED, the future of pain management and pain in the elderly. The registration deadline is October 21. A copy of the brochure is attached.

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## **ELNEC Certification Workshops Scheduled**

Iowa Hospice has sponsored a series of four ELNEC certification seminars. The End-of-Life Nursing Education Consortium (ELNEC) Project is a national end-of-life educational program administered by City of Hope National Medical Center and the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, designed to enhance palliative care in nursing.

The remaining seminars will be held October 21 & 22 in Decorah, November 3 & 4 in Griswold and January 22 & 23 in Fort Madison. For more information about the seminars or to register, contact Nancy Sharp at 515-276-6696.

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## **University of Oklahoma End-of-Life Nursing Study**

The University of Oklahoma College of Nursing is conducting a study entitled “Living and Loving at the End-of-Life.” They are looking for registered nurses who have been employed in hospice for at least six months who are willing to complete an online survey. If you are interested in participating, click on this link: [http://nursing.ouhsc.edu/old\\_site/faculty/ballot/agreement.html](http://nursing.ouhsc.edu/old_site/faculty/ballot/agreement.html).

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## **Hospice News Network**

### **Hospital-based Palliative Care is Urged**

The California Healthcare Foundation has issued a new report that reviews California hospital-based palliative care programs. The review, conducted by the National Health Foundation and the University of California, San Francisco, Palliative Care Team, reported the following highlights:

- Three hundred twenty-five hospitals responded, and 43% had palliative care programs.
- Ninety percent of those programs have been established since 2000.
- “Nonprofit hospitals are far more likely to have a palliative care program than district, city/county, or for-profit institutions.”
- Fifty-seven percent of teaching hospitals now have palliative care programs.
- The vast majority of programs (84%) offer adult care only. Only 13% offer adult and pediatric services.
- Only 4% of hospitals without palliative care are in the process of establishing a program.

The report largely consists of graphic representations of data collected by the survey group, organized under the following major topics: hospitals with palliative care services, growth of programs, programs in major metropolitan areas, programs by hospital ownership and by system status, programs by licensed bed size and in teaching hospitals, types of adult palliative care programs, revenue sources of palliative care programs, patient demographics and quality measures. Other topics include spiritual care, educational materials, staff availability, bereavement services, physical and psychological symptom assessment, and data collection.

The report can be downloaded from the CHCF website, at [www.chfc.org](http://www.chfc.org). The site also contains links to a press release, and to a webpage on palliative care programs in California. (*When Compassion is the Cure: The Case for Hospital-Based Palliative Care*, 9/2008)

### **Medicare’s New Caregiver Web Page Clarifies What The Agency Pays For**

Medicare may not pay for caregiving at home, but Medicare's new caregiver webpage, at [www.medicare.gov/caregivers](http://www.medicare.gov/caregivers), will make it easier to find out what the agency does and doesn't pay for. The new pages offer links for help with billing, navigating Medicare, finding financial and local support, options for care and questions for caregivers. Another section includes Medicare basics. (*The New York Times*, 9/20; *Medicare Caregivers Website*)

### **World Hospice and Palliative Care Day to be Held October 11**

October 11 will be World Hospice & Palliative Care Day, organized around the theme "Hospice and palliative care: a human right." The event is sponsored by the Worldwide Palliative Care Alliance, whose members may be found at [www.worldday.org/partners.asp](http://www.worldday.org/partners.asp). The program aims to "share our vision to increase the availability of hospice and palliative care throughout the world by creating opportunities to speak out about the issues; raise awareness and understanding of the needs – medical, social, practical, spiritual – of people living with a life limiting illness and their families; raise funds to support and develop hospice and palliative care services around the world." (*World Hospice & Palliative Care Day Website*)

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