



HPCAIA Update

Bi-weekly News for Hospice Professionals in Iowa

January 8, 2010

Happy New Year!

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HPCAIA Calendar

Happy New Year!

The staff and board of HPCAIA wish you and your staff the very best in 2010.

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2010 Hospice Wage Index

The FY 2010 Hospice Wage Index is now available in Excel and text (508 compliant) file formats on the [Hospice Center Web page](#) of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Web site.

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NHPCO State Comparison Report of 2008 National Data Set

Attached to this issue of the *Update* is the NHPCO state performance comparison of National Data Set (NDS) for 2008. It includes data from Iowa hospices that participated.

This document is for hospice agency internal use only and is not to be posted publicly on any web site.

The NDS represents a comprehensive compilation of information on hospice operations, including who provides care, who receives care and the range, structure and quality of hospice services. This year's report includes information on services provided outside of Medicare hospice benefits and volunteer services.

Every hospice's data enhances the value of the NDS, therefore all hospices (including non-NHPCO members) are urged to participate in the submission process. The more information hospices submit, the better the NDS can meet the hospice communities' needs.

Data collection is now more important than ever. The NDS 2009 data submission worksheet will be available by February 1, 2010. Please mark your calendars now and plan to participate.

If you have questions regarding the National Data Set, please email nds@nhpc.org.

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CMS and Cahaba Updates

Update to MLN Matters Number MM6540

MLN Matters Number MM 6540 was revised on December 24, 2009 to reflect changes made to CR 6540 on December 23, 2009. The article was revised to show that the reporting instructions for hospices are optional beginning January 1, 2010, but are required as of April 1. Also, the CR release date, transmittal number and the Web address for accessing the CR were revised.

[Click here](#) to review the complete revised article.

Update to Cahaba's Appeals Web Page

On the main [Cahaba Appeals Web page](#) you can find links to information about all the different levels of Medicare appeal. For reconsiderations, the first level of appeal, you will find specific information about how to submit a reconsideration, how to check the status of your appeal request, as well as the time frame in which an appeal needs to be submitted, and the amount of time Cahaba is given to make a determination on the appeal request.

Upcoming educational events for hospice providers. For more information and to register to participate, please visit the [Web site](#).

1/26/2010, Noon – 1:00 pm, “Uncovering the Medicare Hospice Treasure Trove: Lunch & Learn”

This Webinar will identify the top hospice claim submission errors for hospice agencies that bill to Cahaba. Tips and resources for resolving and preventing these errors will also be discussed.

The registration deadline for this event is Thursday, January 21. For more details and to register, [click here](#).

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QAPI Snapshot Survey Available

The 2009 Fourth Quarter QAPI Snapshot Survey is now available. This survey is an essential component of your 2010 QAPI program. Data submission runs through Wednesday, February 3.

To help your agency streamline data collection activities and ensure accuracy, OCS has developed a Data Organization Tool to use before you submit the survey. Simply download the tool to your desktop and start your data preparation. Access to the tool is available from the Survey page, to the right of the online survey link. After you complete your preparatory work using the tool, you're ready to proceed to the online survey.

To access the online survey, follow these simple steps:

1. Go to the OCS home page (www.ocshomecare.com).
2. Click on the "Client Login" link in the top right-hand corner of the page.
3. Click on the drop-down box in the middle of the page and select Hospice Connection.
4. At the [Hospice Connection User Login](#) prompt, enter your Agency ID and Password.
5. From the main Hospice Connection window, click on the Surveys tab.
6. Under the Surveys tab, click on the QAPI Snapshot surveys link. *For the short term, you may be prompted to re-enter your Agency ID and Password to access the surveys.*

Note: If you do not submit data, no report for this time period will be available.

Please add this handy [Outlook appointment reminder](#) to your calendar for timely data entry reminders.

If you have questions, please email client services at qapi@ocsys.com or call 866.641.8324

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Executive Summary of Research Study Available

The Executive Summary of the research study “*Core Values of Hospice Executives*,” conducted in 2009 by Paul Longnecker, RN, PhD, Assistant Professor, Business and Leadership Studies, Lourdes College, has been released. HPCAI offered several opportunities to its membership to participate in this study, including links in past *Update* issues and information made available at the HPCAI Fall Conference.

The **summary is attached to this issue of *Update***.

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Booklet Offers Legal Guidance for Seriously Ill

The onset of a serious illness or injury can affect much more than a person’s health. Knowing what steps to take to get one’s financial and legal affairs in order is often vitally important not only to the affected individual, but to his or her loved ones as well.

The "Legal Guide for the Seriously Ill" -- a project by the American Bar Association Commission on Law and Aging commissioned by the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization -- was designed for both the seriously ill individual and those caring for someone who is seriously ill. The guide explains “Seven Key Steps” in a brief, clear way while offering additional tips and resources for readers looking for more detailed information and guidance.

“The Legal Guide for the Seriously Ill is a great resource for anyone facing a serious illness. The book provides critical tools that help readers understand their options, make informed decisions, and minimize some of the anxiety they may be feeling about their financial and legal affairs at this stage of life,” said ABA President Carolyn Lamm.

NHPCO President/CEO Donald Schumacher said “Hospice and palliative care organizations are frequently asked for information regarding end-of-life planning and decision-making. This guide will be a tremendous resource to them as well as faith communities, caregiver organizations, aging service providers, hospitals and others who work to support people living with a serious illness.

Ellen M. Klem, staff attorney of the ABA Commission on Law and the Aging, reminded readers that the book does not give legal advice, but will “arm readers with knowledge about the options they have during this difficult time.”

The book is available online at NHPCO’s [Caring Connections](#).

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N.Y. Times Article Weighs Costs of End-of-Life Care

The Ronald Reagan U.C.L.A. Medical Center, one of the nation’s most highly regarded academic hospitals, has earned a reputation as a place where doctors will go to virtually any length and expense to try to save a patient’s life. Yet that ethos has made the medical center a prime target for critics in the Obama administration and elsewhere who talk about how much money the nation wastes on needless tests and futile procedures. [Click here to read the complete article](#). (December 23, *New York Times*)

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HPCAI Calendar

- **January 18, 12:30 – 2:00 p.m.**
HPCAI Education Committee
HPCAI Board Room, 100 E. Grand Avenue, Des Moines

- **March 5**
Social Work Peer Group Conference
Bessie Myers Auditorium, Mary Greeley Medical Center
- **March 9, 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**
HPCAI Legislative Day
HPCAI Offices and Capitol
- **November 2 – 3**
HPCAI Fall Conference
Scheman Building, Iowa State Center, Ames

To add items to the HPCAI Calendar, send information to [Stacey Nay](#).

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