



IHO Update

Bi-weekly News for Hospice Professionals in Iowa

March 30, 2007

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Nationally Recognized Speaker to Present at April 12 IHO Conference

Deb Grassman, a nationally recognized speaker on VA issues and end-of-life care, has authored articles in more than 10 publications including the *American Journal of Hospice and Palliative Care* and has presented at organizations such as The Department of Veterans Affairs in Washington, DC; the Nebraska, Missouri, San Diego and Massachusetts State Hospice Conferences – just to name a few state conferences; as well as NHPCO. She has done pioneering work in hospice for 11 years and will bring her expertise to the IHO Special Topics Conference on April 12 at the West Des Moines Marriott where she will present, “Successful Suffering” and “Death Foretold: The Value of Prognosis.”

Registration is still available and the \$25 late registration fee for those who were needing to register after April 5 has been waived. However, there are only two weeks left to get your spot at this year’s conference to see Deb Grassman as well as spend the afternoon session with James Thorpe, Psy.D., clinical psychologist, who will distinguish between grief and clinical depression in the dying, list factors involved in the diagnosis of clinical depression, and identify the roles of the caregiver in providing quality care to depressed patients with life-threatening illnesses.

This meeting, usually referred to as the IHO Spring Conference has changed names to a *Special Topics Conference*. The business meeting that would normally take place at this meeting will now take place at the Fall Conference October 24-25, 2007, in Ames.

To register and for more information, see the brochure enclosed with this week's *IHO Update* or register online at www.iowahospice.org under the "Calendar" tab.

Assessing Industry Readiness for NPI Implementation Date

A January survey conducted by the Workgroup for Electronic Data Interchange indicates that the industry's progress towards meeting the May 23 implementation date for the HIPAA National Provider Identifier (NPI) is far from becoming in compliance with the law. To be a HIPAA compliant transaction, only the NPI can be on any HIPAA transaction beginning May 23. Health plans and claims processing vendors must build cross walks within their systems to be sure they match the legacy to the NPI correctly, and hospitals must obtain not only the hospital provider identifiers, but all the physicians that practice in and refer patients to their facility.

Of the 866 providers responding to the survey, 70 percent stated they were not sending both the NPI and legacy number to their trading partners, and 89 percent are not sending only the NPI. Of the 70 percent, 72 percent would not be able to submit both numbers until March, leaving only two months for trading partners (payers and vendors) to build cross walks on the back end to ensure claims are processed accurately and payment is remitted to the correct provider. 59 percent of providers will not be able to accept a HIPAA compliant remittance advice with the NPI until after March.

Conversely, 32 percent of the 156 health plans responding indicated they cannot accept electronic claims with both the legacy and NPI numbers. Of that 32 percent, 69 percent would not be able to accept claims with both numbers until March. 85 percent of the health plans cannot currently accept claims with only the NPI, and 41 percent of the vendors cannot generate an electronic claim with the NPI only. 70 percent of health plans are receiving less than 5 percent of claims with NPIs.

The good news is that 95 percent of the provider respondents said they had obtained their NPIs. The challenge lies in ensuring trading partners not only have the provider identifiers, but that they have the correct identifiers to build their cross walks. There remains little to no time available for a significant portion of the industry to test prior to the May 23 deadline.

On a related matter, both the National Uniform Billing Committee, responsible for the institutional claim, and the National Uniform Claim Committee, responsible for the professional claim, have developed new forms to accommodate the NPI and both are required for claims processing beginning May 23. However, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) recently announced there are incorrectly formatted versions of the revised professional claim being sold by print vendors, specifically, the Government Printing Office GPO. This resulted in the sale of both printed forms and negatives which do not comply with the form specifications. CMS had originally intended for the professional claim to have

an effective date of April 1 for Medicare claims. Because of the error in the form, the agency is targeting June 1 as the new effective date.

On February 26, CMS sent a noticed rule for review to the Office of Management and Budget for a data dissemination tool. IHO urges hospitals to continue to work with physicians in obtaining and sharing NPIs, and to share the identifiers with trading partners.

Opportunity to Comment on Iowa Hospice MAC Procurement

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has released the Request for Information (RFI) related to the Request for Proposal for the second cycle of the Parts A and B Medicare Administrative Contractor (MAC) procurement, which includes the Iowa home health and hospice books of business. Section 911 of the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement and Modernization Act of 2003 requires the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to take the necessary steps between now and 2011 to implement Medicare contracting reform. To implement section 911, CMS must conduct full and open competitions for the work currently handled by fiscal intermediaries and carriers in administering the Medicare fee-for-service program. Once awarded, the MACs will be responsible for both Parts A and B of the Medicare program.

CMS is requesting the industry review the information and provide feedback by April 6. To access the RFI and related information, visit the HHS Web site at: <http://www.fbo.gov/spg/HHS/HCFA/AGG/Reference-Number-AB-MAC-Cycle-Two-Acquisitions-RFI/listing.html>.

National Data Set – Online Data Submission Has Begun

All hospices are encouraged to submit information for NHPCO's National Data Set. The data set represents a comprehensive data collection of information on hospice operations, including who provides care, who receives care, and the range, cost and quality of hospice services. NHPCO recommends downloading and printing a copy of the survey from the NDS page of the NHPCO Web site (www.nhpc.org/nds) for use as a worksheet for compiling data in preparation for submitting information online.

After compiling data, click on the link for NHPCO DART (Data Analysis and Report Tool) system on the NDS page to submit information. You will need a provider ID and password to access the DART system. If you do not know your provider ID and password, please contact NHPCO's Member Service Center at 800.646.6460. NOTE: Hospices that have historically submitted NDS data through state organizations will continue to do so.

Hospices who are not NHPCO members are also encouraged to submit data. While there is no fee to participate, membership is required to access the summary reports. To learn how to submit data as a nonmember, send an email to NDS@nhpc.org.

Beyond benchmarking, your participation in the National Data Set will help prepare you for expected requirements under the new Conditions of Participation and the upcoming quality measures from NHPCO and CMS. It will also provide NHPCO with essential information to advocate for hospice and good end-of-life care on behalf of all hospice programs and those near the end of life.

The data submission deadline for the National Data Set is May 1, 2007. Questions regarding the NDS, online data submission, and summary reports should be sent to nds@nhpco.org.

Governor's Conference on Aging 2007 Agenda Set

The theme for this year's Governor's Conference on Aging, set for May 21 & 22, at the Sheraton West Des Moines Hotel is "Aging: The Journey of a Lifetime."

Aging is more than a physical process; it is a journey with moments of great triumph, periods of setback and experiences that intrigue us.

Jackie Pflug, nationally-acclaimed speaker, author, and plane hijacking survivor, has an amazing story to share. Her presentation, "The Courage to Succeed," has been delivered throughout North America and her book, *Miles to Go Before I Sleep*, continues to influence peoples' attitudes, values, and behaviors.

The conference will explore the successes, challenges and all points in between along the journey of a lifetime. For more information, visit the conference Web site at: <http://www.state.ia.us/elderaffairs>.

Pediatric Palliative Care Train-the-Trainer Course Offering

The Kansas City Partnership to Advance Pediatric Palliative Care and the Center for Practical Bioethics is hosting a two-day End-of-Life Nursing Education Consortium (ELNEC) Pediatric Palliative Care Train-the-Trainer Course on April 11-12. For more information, see the brochure enclosed with this week's *IHO Update*. You may also contact Cindy Leyland, Projector Director, Pediatric Palliative Care, Center for Practical Bioethics at 816.221.1100, extension 209.

New Research Finds Patients Do Live Longer Under Hospice Care

(article submitted by NHPCO)

A new study published in the March 2007 issue of the [*Journal of Pain and Symptom Management*](#) reports that hospice care may prolong the lives of some terminally ill patients.

Among the patient populations studied, the mean survival was 29 days longer for hospice patients than for non-hospice patients. In other words, patients who chose hospice care lived an average of one month longer than similar patients who did not choose hospice care.

The study was conducted by NHPCO researchers in collaboration with the highly regarded consulting and actuarial firm, Milliman, Inc. Researchers selected 4,493 terminally ill patients with either congestive heart failure (CHF) or cancer of the breast, colon, lung, pancreas, or prostate. They then analyzed the difference in survival periods between those who received hospice care and those who did not.

Data came from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and represented a statistically valid five percent sampling from 1998-2002. Longer lengths of survival were found in four of the six disease categories studied. The largest difference in survival between the hospice and non-hospice cohorts was observed in CHF patients where the mean survival period jumped from 321 days to 402 days. The mean survival period also was significantly longer for the hospice patients with lung cancer (39 days) and pancreatic cancer (21 days), while marginally significant for colon cancer (33 days).

Researchers cited several factors that may have contributed to longer life among patients who chose hospice. First, patients who are already in a weakened condition avoid the risks of over-treatment when they make the decision to receive hospice care. Second, hospice care may improve the monitoring and treatment patients receive. Additionally, hospice provides in-home care from an interdisciplinary team focused on the emotional needs, spiritual well-being, and physical health of the patient. This may increase the patient's desire to continue living and may make them feel less of a burden to family members.

More information about this study is available at www.caringinfo.org.

CAHABA Webinar Focuses on Medicare Part A

There's still time to register for, "Navigating the Medicare Resource Sea" Webinar, to be held on April 5, from 1-2 p.m. (Central Time). This webinar will explore critical Medicare resources for Part A providers found on the Cahaba GBA, LLC, and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Web sites.

The resources to be referenced are crucial in developing an understanding of the Medicare program. The intended audience for this event is Part A providers who have recently received Medicare certification or new staff members of existing Medicare providers. To register, please access the Cahaba GBA, LLC Calendar of Events at https://www.cahabagba.com/apps/course_registration/ia/calendar.jsp
The registration deadline is April 2, 2007.

Pain Management for Children in Hospice and Palliative Care

The National Center for Death Education and Mount Ida College, in collaboration with NHPCO, is offering an online course, Pain Management for Children in Hospice and Palliative Care, April 2- April 27, with faculty Susan M. Huff, RN, MSN.

This 4-week online learning program is offered in WebCt. For more information on this course visit www.mountida.edu/ncde, or call NCDE at 617.928.4649.

Upcoming Hospice of Central Iowa Education Opportunities

May 10:

Survivor – The Real Story (Stages of the Grief Journey)

- Kenneth Doka, PhD, Senior Consultant, Hospice Foundation of America, NY
- Patti Homan, PhD, LPC, FT, Program Director, PATHways Center for Grief and Loss, Lancaster, PA

June 14:

Above and Beyond: Volunteers Caring for those at the End of Life

- Ona Rita Yufe, MA, CA
- Ann Riesenber, RN, MA, CHPN, Program Director, Alzheimer's Association, Des Moines, IA

For more information, please visit www.hospiceofcentraliowa.org.

Member-Abilia

- NIHC Home Health & Hospice in Sheldon has changed their name to **Sanford Home Health and Hospice Sheldon**. The hospice location has not changed.

Enclosures

IHO Special Topics Conference brochure
ELNEC Train-the-Trainer Course brochure