



HPCAI Update

Bi-weekly News for Hospice Professionals in Iowa

May 15, 2009

HPCAI Seeks Presentations for Fall Conference

Data Submission Deadline Extended for National Data Set

Reminder: CMS Issues Revised Wage Indices

Hospice Nurses Honored

New Fact Sheet Available from CMS Medicare Learning Network

Nursing Certification Exam Schedule

Couple to Walk Across Iowa to Support the Dying

HPCAI Calendar

HPCAI Still Seeking Presentations for Fall Conference

Have you heard a great hospice or palliative care related speaker recently? Do you have a question you've always wanted answered? Does your hospice have a successful initiative or program you would like to share? This is your opportunity to ensure topics you are interested in are covered at the HPCAI Fall Conference.

The 2009 Fall Conference Call for Presentations was sent out in April, it also is attached to this issue of the *Update*. 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. [To complete the form online, click here.](#)

For more information on the Fall Conference, contact Stacey Nay, HPCAI Director of Education, 515.243.1046.

Mark Your Calendars!

HPCAI Fall Conference
October 28 – 29, 2009
Scheman Building, Iowa State Center, Ames

[Top](#)

National Data Set Deadline is May 15

HPCAI encourages your hospice to submit information for NHPCO's National Data Set (NDS). The deadline was extended to Friday, May 15. The NDS represents a comprehensive compilation of information on hospice operations. NDS summary results provide useful information to hospices for defining strategic goals, setting operational targets, and improving care delivery.

Hospices can submit FY2008 NDS data through NHPCO's web-based Data Analysis and Reporting

Tool (DART) which is accessible from the National Data Set page of the [NHPCO Web site](#). A provider ID and password is needed 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.

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 non-member, please send an email to NDS@nhpco.org.

NHPCO maintains a dedicated email address (nds@nhpco.org) for questions related to the survey, data submission or any other part of the NDS process should you need individual assistance.

Every hospice's data enhance the value of the NDS; therefore, we STRONGLY encourage you to join in the submission process.

[Top](#)

Reminder: CMS Issues Revised Wage Indices

On March 26, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) published revised wage indices for FY 2009. In the final FY 2009 rule, CMS adopted a policy to phase out over three years the hospice wage index budget neutrality adjustment factor (BNAF), which resulted in a payment reduction for hospices. However, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 reversed this policy. CMS recently published the revised hospice wage indices for 2009, and Medicare contractors have six months to make retroactive payments back to October 1, 2008.

The following table lists the new wage indices:

CBSA	Corrected FY 2009 Wage Indices
Rural	0.9134
Ames	1.0712
Cedar Rapids	0.9438
Council Bluffs	1.0194
Davenport	0.9415
Des Moines	0.9837
Dubuque	0.9658
Iowa City	1.0202
Sioux City	0.9864
Waterloo	0.9083

[Click here to view a spreadsheet providing the wage adjusted payment rate for the four levels of hospice care.](#) Contact [Heather Hulscher](#) with any questions.

[Top](#)

Hospice Nurses Honored

Two hospice nurses are included in the 2009 list of "100 Great Iowa Nurses." Stephanie Anderson, Director, Palliative and Hospice, St. Luke's Hospital, Cedar Rapids and Barbara Zoeller, Executive Director, Hospice of Dubuque, Dubuque are two of the 100 nurses who were honored at a celebration on May 3 in Des Moines.

The field of nominees was narrowed to 100 by a panel of judges, including nursing professionals and past years' award winners, who reviewed nominations from around the state. Nurses selected for this

honor represent many sectors of health care, including hospitals, long-term care facilities, and school and office nurses.

For more information on the Great Nurses program, go to <http://www.greatnurses.org/>.

Congratulations to Stephanie and Barbara!

[Top](#)

New Fact Sheet Available from CMS Medicare Learning Network

The ICD-9-CM To and From ICD-10-CM and ICD-10-PCS Fact Sheet is available online from the [CMS Medicare Learning Network](#). The fact sheet provides information and resources to assist with the conversion of International Classification of Diseases, 9th Edition, Clinical Modification (ICD-9-CM) codes to International Classification of Diseases, 10th Edition (ICD-10) and the conversion of ICD-10 codes back to ICD-9-CM. A catalog of all available articles is [available online](#).

[Top](#)

Nursing Certification Exam Schedule

Certification exams are offered by the National Board for Certification of Hospice and Palliative Nurses in “testing windows.” A paper application must be completed approximately six weeks prior to the start of the testing window, and an online application must be completed approximately two weeks prior to the start of the testing window. The tests are offered at two approved assessment centers in Iowa, one in Des Moines and one in Davenport. A [complete list of testing centers is available online](#).

The candidate handbook for the [NBCHPN certifications examinations is available here](#). Relevant dates for the balance of 2009 are:

Testing Window:	September 1 – 30	November 1 - 30
Application Start Date:	June 1	August 1
Paper Application Deadline:	July 15	September 15
Online Application Deadline:	August 15	October 15

[Top](#)

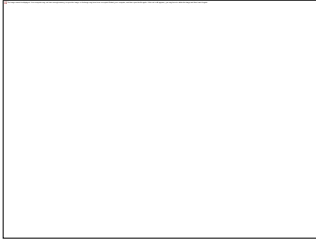
Couple to Walk Across Iowa to Support the Dying

Micheal Tuite lost his mother, Elizabeth (Betty) Tuite to cancer in Kells, County Meath, Ireland. Through their sadness, he and his wife, Jennifer recognized the hospice care she received added great dignity to the end of her life.

In loving memory of Betty Tuite, who died in 2006, and in support of the [Foundation for Hospices in Sub-Saharan Africa](#) (FHSSA), they are beginning a special journey of love and remembrance. Their River to River walk will take them across Iowa from the Missouri to the Mississippi Rivers in approximately six weeks.

Backpacking and camping, they will start their almost 500 mile walk on the western border of Iowa on Sunday, May 17 following a 1 p.m. event and reception hosted with [Hospice of the Siouxland](#). The program, “Why We Should Care: the HIV/AIDS Pandemic in Sub-Saharan Africa” will be at the [Betty Strong Encounter Center](#) on Sioux City’s riverfront.

The program's main speaker will be Louise Stobart, director of Hospice of Howick, Kwa-Zulu-Natal, South Africa, who will discuss the HIV/AIDS pandemic in South Africa and how a partnership with Hospice of Siouxland has helped her community. Linda Todd, Director of Hospice of Siouxland, and John Mastrojohn, Vice President of FHSSA, also will present remarks.



The Tuites Walk Across Iowa demonstrates their commitment to strengthening and expanding care for the dying in sub-Saharan Africa.

The Tuites were determined to answer the question - "what can we do to have the biggest impact?" Having gained an immense appreciation for hospice workers and the care they provide the dying, they wanted to find a way to give back.

After researching non-profit organizations through Guidestar, they learned about the work of FHSSA. The mission of strengthening and expanding African hospice and palliative care programs in sub-Saharan Africa appealed to their desire to make a difference.

The Tuites selected FHSSA as the sole beneficiary because "support promises to raise the level of service and have an even greater impact in sub-Saharan Africa." Last year, over 2 million Africans died of HIV/AIDS, including 520,000 children, and FHSSA is working to help deliver quality hospice and palliative care. The [Tuites' Web site](#) provides the opportunity for others to join in their efforts and follow their journey.

[Top](#)

HPCAI Calendar

June 2

HPCAI Board Meeting, *HPCAI Board Room*

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Hospice House Networking Group, *HPCAI Education Center*

12:00 – 12:30 p.m. – Lunch

12:30 – 3:30 p.m. – Meeting

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

[Top](#)