



HPCAIA Update

Bi-weekly News for Hospice Professionals in Iowa

July 2, 2009

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HPCAIA wishes you and your staff a wonderful 4th of July holiday weekend!

Medicaid Announces NF Reserve Bed Payment

This week, Iowa Medicaid mailed [Informational Letter 817](#), attached, announcing a policy change related to hospice patients who reside in a nursing facility. Effective August 1, 2009, Iowa Medicaid will reimburse up to 10 reserve nursing facility (NF) bed days per calendar month for hospice recipients who live in a nursing facility **and** for whom acute medical condition require hospitalization. However, this change will not be applied retroactively prior to August 1, 2009.

The reserve days will be limited to ten per month without any balance transfers to other months. The reimbursement for a reserve bed day will be 42 percent, rather than the regular 95 percent room and board reimbursement.

Each hospice will be responsible for identifying the total number of nursing facility reserve bed days within any one calendar month and entering the amount on the UB-07 claim form with Revenue Code 185. The hospice will then pass through the reserve bed day reimbursement to the nursing facility. Additional billing details are included within Informational Letter 817.

Hospices are encouraged to also consider [Informational Letter 806](#) clarifying the hospice billing limitation to calendar months and the importance of close and careful communication with the local DHS income maintenance worker. Hospice must complete a Case Activity Report (CAR) (Form 470-0042) for each of the status changes bulleted below for a NF hospice recipient who requires hospitalization and submit each status change CAR, discharge or re-entry to nursing facility, **within 5 working days** to the DHS income maintenance worker.

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Is Hospice in the President's Purple Folder?

Below are excerpts from an email sent out by NHPCO calling for letters to save hospice from budget cuts.

Recently, thousands of phone calls from hospice advocates have lit up the White House switchboard. Their message has been simple: hospice works for patients and families - stop the hospice rate cuts.

In mid-June, the House of Representatives released a nearly 900-page draft of its health care reform proposal. Buried in that draft document is a reduction in the productivity factor, which amounts to an across-the-board rate reduction for all Medicare providers.

This is an early draft of one Chamber's proposal, and we don't know whether it will come out in the final package. We'll be monitoring that closely and engaging at the right time, but right now - today - we need to do everything we can to make sure that the President stops the previous Administration's cuts.

In light of this new information, we wanted to share some information about President Obama's Purple Folder. Each day, White House staff collects 10 personal letters from Americans who have taken time to write about a specific issue impacting them. The staff selects these letters based on whether or not the personal issue also has national policy implications - so that the President can see the real impact of the decisions being made in Washington.

We think it's long past time for hospice to be in the Purple Folder. We're just weeks away from rate cuts that will hinder patient access and jeopardize the compassionate and high-quality end-of-life care that more than 1.5 million Americans, and their families, depend on each year. So, think about the families that you serve and touching experiences about the impact of hospice, and write a letter to the President. Ask your patients, families and volunteers to do the same. If every hospice program finds the right person to submit one powerful letter, President Obama is sure to hear our message.

Let's get hospice in the Purple Folder because the President can stop these cuts and make sure that hospice is available for future generations.

Here are some tips:

- Be respectful and courteous. The President has had valuable hospice experiences in his life, and he did not originate these cuts.
- Tell a good story. We want to show how hospice is unique and what is on the line if programs must close due to the rate cuts.
- Be brief. Don't go over 2 pages in length.
- Be quick. Time is running out and we should try to get these personal letters to the White House within the next few days.
- Be sure to ask the President to stop the hospice rate cuts enacted by the previous Administration.
- There is no need to mention the Purple Folder; just write the most compelling letter that you can.
- Fax your letter to the White House: 202-456-2461.

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Course for Hospice Medical Directors to be Held

The American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine (AAHPM) will hold the Hospice Medical Director Course August 6-8 in Chicago. This course is intended for both new and experienced hospice medical directors looking to balance clinical, administrative and regulatory challenges. The content of the course has been updated and expanded this year.

Participants will learn the expanded role of the director under the new Medicare Hospice Conditions of Participation and strategies for being successful within the interdisciplinary team. In addition, attendees

will gain knowledge on billing and regulatory requirements, pain and symptom management and leadership techniques. Participants can earn up to 22.25 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™.

For more information, [click here](#).

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Cahaba News

Upcoming Training Events for Hospice Providers

For more information and to register to participate, please visit the [Web site](#).

7/23/2009 — “Iowa Home Health Clinicians: Outstanding in Our Field”

Teleconference for home health clinicians, administrators, QI coordinators.

This teleconference is being sponsored by the Iowa Alliance for Home Care. It will cover Iowa’s top Medical Review denials in 2009, and how to avoid them. Information about making good coverage decisions and documentation of homebound, skilled nursing, therapies, and medical social worker will also be provided.

The registration deadline is Friday, July 17, 2009. To register, contact the Iowa Alliance for Home Care online at www.iowahomecare.org or by phone at 515-282-3965.

7/28/2009 — “Navigating the Medicare Resources Sea”

Webinar for home health and hospice provider staff who have less than 25 full-time employees, or who are new or have staff new to Medicare.

This Webinar will explore Medicare resources for home health and hospice providers found on the Cahaba and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Web sites, including the self-service technologies available.

The registration deadline is Thursday, July 23, 2009. For more details and to register, [click here](#).

7/30/2009 – “Hospice Clinicians: Looking Back and Ahead in Medical Review”

Webinar for hospice clinicians, administrators, QI coordinators.

This Webinar will cover the top Medical Review denials, thus far, in 2009, and how to avoid them. The nuances of terminal prognosis, and capturing symptoms in documentation will also be discussed.

The registration deadline is Monday, July 27, 2009. For more details and to register, [click here](#).

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HPCAI Calendar

July 21

District 4 Meeting, 1-3pm, CCMH, Atlantic

October 28 – 29

HPCAI Fall Conference, Scheman Building, Ames

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