

Roundtable on Quality Care for People with Serious Illness: Lessons from the COVID-19 Pandemic

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Hospice and Palliative Care Policy Impact and Considerations

Protect and Ensure Care for Patients and Families during COVID-19 Pandemic



(Hospice News)

By Holly Vossel
March 20, 2020

Hospice Workers Still Lacking Access to Vaccine, Despite Caring for Most Vulnerable



Hospice workers with Empath Heath's Suncoast Hospice receive COVID 19 vaccine allocated by the Pinellas County Department of Health
Photo Courtesy of Empath (Spectrum News, Bay News 9)

By Cait McVey
February 5, 2021

COVID-19 Legislative and Regulatory Activity

Vision: Ensure that individuals and families facing serious illness, death, and grief will experience the best that humankind can offer.

- ❖ Support hospice and palliative care providers during a global pandemic
 - Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
 - Access to patients
 - Economic support
 - Regulatory flexibilities
 - Limit excessive administrative burden
- ❖ Public Health Emergency declaration
- ❖ CARES Act
 - Section 3706 of the CARES Act to allow telehealth F2F recertification
 - Sequestration relief
 - Provider Relief Fund (PRF)

COVID-19 Legislative and Regulatory Activity

- ❖ Provider Relief Fund
 - \$1 billion to hospice providers
 - Restrictions and reporting requirements (e.g. fundraising and thrift store losses are lost revenues attributable to COVID-19)
- ❖ Regulatory Flexibilities
 - 1135 waivers
 - 13 waivers approved for hospice and hospice inpatient facilities
- ❖ Paused Routine Audits
- ❖ Hospice Care in Nursing Homes
- ❖ Testing
- ❖ Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021

COVID-19 Response under the Biden Administration and 117th Congress

- ❖ Policy Priorities: COVID-19, COVID-19, COVID-19
- ❖ National Plan
- ❖ Defense Production Act
- ❖ Health Equity
- ❖ Vaccines
 - How hospice and palliative care providers can contribute to national efforts
- ❖ COVID Relief Package
- ❖ Hospice and palliative care during and beyond the pandemic
 - Telehealth
 - Health equity
 - Community-based palliative care
 - Bereavement

Protect and Ensure Care for Patients and Families during COVID-19 Pandemic Lessons Learned



Guidance on the Role of Hospice Services in LTC Facilities During COVID-19 Pandemic

Long-term care facility residents and staff are experiencing a number of stressors and losses. LTC facility staff are experiencing challenges both personally and professionally. This has increased the need for hospice's holistic, end-of-life care for patients and families as well as grief and bereavement support for residents, families and staff. It is critical that LTC and hospice staff partner together to ensure simple, clear and supportive communication, minimizing mixed messages.

To prevent the spread, facilities and health care workers need to significantly reduce the number of people entering and interacting with residents and staff. This needs to be balanced with providing the most benefit to the resident and family, especially at the end-of-life. The risk-benefit must be made on a case-by-case basis, incorporating the best interest of the resident, against the risk of introducing the virus to other residents, a cohort that has a very high morbidity and mortality rate. According to the [CDC Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report](#), the current mortality rate ranges from 10-27% for elderly over the age of 85. This decision process will need to be adjusted as the COVID-19 situation evolves in each local community and building.

Issued April 10, 2020



CORONAVIRUS IN FLORIDA

Vern Buchanan urges Ron DeSantis to vaccinate hospice workers

A majority of Florida's 20,000 hospice workers haven't had access.

By Jacob Ogles on February 3, 2021

A photograph of a woman wearing a grey hijab hugging a young man from behind. They are outdoors in a park-like setting with trees in the background. The woman has her eyes closed and a gentle smile. The young man is wearing a grey t-shirt.

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