



JUNE NEWSLETTER 2016

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SECTIONS- LEGISLATIVE UPDATE-Betsy Mitchell, MPA, IL HPCO Legislative Consultant

Betsy D. Mitchell, MPA

IL-HPCO Legislative Consultant

Some Good News -- Finally!

Hours before Fiscal Year 2017 was set to begin without a budget in place and still not budget for FY 2016, the Illinois General Assembly returned to Springfield and passed a budget in part. Basically, a full budget was passed for FY2016, a partial (for only six months) budget was passed for FY2017, and a 9-month education budget was passed for FY2017. Specifically, for HOSPICE CARE, the new FY2017 budget includes allowing federal Medicaid dollars to continue to flow through Illinois and on to providers. It also appropriates funds through the Illinois Department of Human Services for patient burial costs for the next six months.

As this is being written, both the Senate and House have passed legislation [House Amendment 003](#) to implement the budget. This action will soon be sent to the Governor for his expected approval and signature. The effective date for this legislation is July 1, 2016.

Substantive Bills: Below find highlighted the major bills IL-HPCO followed during the 2016 Spring Session. For a complete report of all (167 Pages) of the bills IL-HPCO followed, please contact me and I will email the report to you.

House Bills

[House Bill 4429](#) -- [Full Text](#) -- Interest on late Medicaid Payments -- Similar legislation has been introduced in previous sessions. This bill provides for interest rates to be paid on late Medicaid payments to health care providers. Unfortunately, the bill received little attention and was re-referred to the Rules Committee.

[House Bill 5559](#) -- [Full Text](#) -- Provider Directories -- In a provision concerning MCOs contracted with HFS to provide health services, requires HFS to develop a procedure to directly test the provider network directories submitted by each MCO. the bill provides that the procedure must directly test the accuracy of the information contained in the provider directories. The bill was heard in the House Public Affairs Committee but was later re-referred to the Rules Committee.

Senate Bills

[Senate Bill 10](#) -- [House Floor Amendment No. 3](#) -- Medical Marijuana -- The bill adds terminal illness to the list of health conditions that may be allowed to legally purchase marijuana. In addition, the bill allows physicians to merely certify the patient has at least one of the required conditions rather than prescribing marijuana. Also, the sunset date for the Pilot Project is extended. The bill passed both houses on the last day of session.

[Senate Bill 2580](#) -- [Full Text](#) -- Creates the Illinois Alzheimer's Disease Registry Act. In the past, IL-HPCO has supported legislation introduced by the Alzheimer's organization as they are typically supportive of our positions. This bill was re-referred to the Committee on Assignments and did not receive further action.

[Senate Bill 3080](#) -- [Senate Floor Amendment No. 1](#) -- Network Adequacy -- Originally SB 3080 was identical to House Bill 5671 but later amended with agreed upon language and passed by both houses on May 27, 2016. HB 3080 provides that MCOs must confirm receipt of information submitted specific to physician additions or physician deletions from the MCO's provider network within 3 days after receiving required information from contracted physicians, and electronic physician directories must be updated consistent with current rules as published by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. The bill also provides that in no instance shall a medically necessary covered service rendered in good faith, based upon eligibility information documented by the provider, be denied coverage or diminished in payment amount if the eligibility or coverage information available at the time the service was rendered is later found to be inaccurate. In addition, a metrics report is to be published and made available to providers.

[Senate Bill 3158](#) -- [Full Text](#) -- Transportation of Hospice Drugs- The bill would allow the Illinois Department of Public Health to change its rule (not the law) to provide for the possession and transportation of greater quantities of specified drugs by a home health agency, hospice, or authorized nursing employees. The bill was introduced at the request of a constituent of Senator McCann (R, Jacksonville). Discussions took place within IL-HPCO's Legislative and Regulatory Committee regarding offering support and additional medications for inclusion. This bill did not receive consideration in the Senate so it something IL-HPCO can discuss for future action.

SECTIONS - ATTEND:

IL-HPCO Regional Meetings

July 19 – Springfield, Memorial Home Services

August 23-Belleville, Memorial Orthopedic/Neuroscience Center

Annual Educational Conference- The Palmer House and Illinois Health and Hospital Association

September 21 – Dinner and Reception

September 22—CEU sessions from 8:00-4:30 with speakers from NHPCO, Palmetto and more

Palmetto Workshops

2016 Jurisdiction M (JM) Hospice Medicare Workshop Series - Protecting Your Dollars, Making Cents Out of Medicare

Palmetto GBA is pleased to announce the 2016 Hospice workshop series, 'Protecting Your Dollars, Making Cents Out of Medicare!' These workshops are designed for hospice providers and their staff to equip them with the tools they need to be successful with Medicare billing, coverage and documentation requirements. Please review this article and workshop registration instructions and share this information with your staff.

http://www.palmettogba.com/palmetto/providers.nsf/ls/JM%20Home%20Health%20and%20Hospice~A6ZTPX4572?opendocument&utm_source=JMHHHL&utm_campaign=JMHHHLs&utm_medium=email

SECTIONS - Palmetto GBA Tips

Hospice Tip: CERT Medical Record Review

As a hospice provider, remember it is the billing provider's responsibility to obtain any necessary information required for the CERT medical record review, regardless of the location of the documentation. Please share with appropriate staff.

http://www.palmettogba.com/palmetto/providers.nsf/ls/JM%20Home%20Health%20and%20Hospice~A65GUD0088?opendocument&utm_source=JMHHHL&utm_campaign=JMHHHLs&utm_medium=email

Hospice Tip: Election Information

A hospice provider needs to be sure the Hospice election information is submitted in the record for review by the CERT contractor. When submitting hospice election information, identify the particular hospice that will provide care to the individual.

http://www.palmettogba.com/palmetto/providers.nsf/ls/JM%20Home%20Health%20and%20Hospice~A6JGWG8483?opendocument&utm_source=JMHHHL&utm_campaign=JMHHHLs&utm_medium=email

Hospice Tip: Palliative Care

The individual's or representative's (as applicable) acknowledgment that the individual has been given a full understanding of hospice care, particularly the palliative rather than curative nature of treatment, must be documented.

http://www.palmettogba.com/palmetto/providers.nsf/Is/JM%20Home%20Health%20and%20Hospice~A6TGY80348?opendocument&utm_source=JMHHHL&utm_campaign=JMHHHLs&utm_medium=email

Hospice Tip: Signatures for Face-to-Face Encounters

The practitioner who performed the encounter must sign the attestation for face-to-face encounters. If a practitioner other than the recertifying physician (such as a nurse practitioner (NP)) performed the encounter, a separate encounter attestation signature is required. Please share with appropriate staff.

http://www.palmettogba.com/palmetto/providers.nsf/Is/JM%20Home%20Health%20and%20Hospice~A76PGH2650?opendocument&utm_source=JMHHHL&utm_campaign=JMHHHLs&utm_medium=email

SECTIONS – NEWS

POLST SURVEY- Julie Goldstein, MD, Chair-POLST Illinois Task Force

POLST is working with ISMS (Illinois State Medical Society) to create a survey monkey survey that will help us assess knowledge base, penetration and educational needs around POLST in Illinois. ISMS has agreed to either expand the participant invite list and data collection/analysis beyond just ISMS constituents, or at the very least to share the survey itself around.

POLST now has interest in participation from the Illinois Medical Directors Association, Illinois Academy of Family Physicians, Leading Age, and Telligen; we've already worked with the Illinois Hospital Association who sent out their own survey to hospitals only.

The goal with this is to determine the penetrance of appropriate use and educational needs for POLST across the state, so POLST Task Force can gear POLST Illinois next steps accordingly, including making a case for grant dollars and access for teaching. Julie Goldstein says " We do suspect first responders in ED's and in the field would benefit from more education, and it would be useful to all of us to demonstrate that up-front."

IL HPCO is participating in this project, and has a meeting scheduled with the POLST team at the end of July to discuss this initiative and other collaborative efforts between IL HPCO and POLST. Julie Goldstein and Rachael Talleen will be speaking on POLST at the upcoming IL HPCO Conference in September.

IL HPCO COMMUNICATIONS Workgroup-Pam Cramer, CAE, Executive Director

Led by Mary Sheehan the Communications Workgroup has selected a current brand Newsletter template . The workgroup is establishing a robust and rigid timetable for newsletter content, and will be inviting all IL HPCO leaders to contribute. Newsletters are archived on the IL HPCO website, www.il-hpco.org and the publication schedule will be posted as well. We encourage all IL HPCO members to send us information that would like considered for the newsletter.

IL HPCO Regional Meetings - IL HPCO hosted its first Regional meeting in Rockford mid June, which was well-attended by member and non-member providers. Pam Weiss, from Heartland Hospice, sourced the meeting location and Diane Nowak from Dignity Memorial donated lunch. We were pleased to have attendees representing 15 provider agencies.

VETERANS CORNER

Northern Tier Hospice-Veteran Partnership meeting :

Wednesday, September 21

Jesse Brown VA Medical Center

Mary Nash-Powell, MSW, LCSW, MVF-CSW – “The Final Tour: Veterans & PTSD at the End of Life”

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