



Chair Message

Mary Sheehan, IL-HPCO Chair, CEO
Joliet Area Community Hospice

The Board of Directors had a strategic planning session in February and agreed unanimously that the focus of IL-HPCO should be advocacy for hospice and our members in the State. Additionally, the education of members on best practices is our responsibility. You will see continued focus on these strategies in the coming months.

Advocacy Day was a success! We had fifteen IL-HPCO member hospices represented by twenty eight individuals, largest ever in attendance! Even though there were nine gun bills being discussed in the House, Dan Biss made time to come out and see the hospice group (thank you to our lobbyist, Betsy Mitchell!), We hope to repeat this event in the fall and, in the meantime, we will be training our members how to lobby with their legislators 'at home' at our Regional Meetings.

On a national level, Physician Assistants will be allowed to serve as the attending physician to hospice patients and perform other functions that are otherwise consistent with their scope of practice, beginning January 1, 2019.

On February 15th, U.S. Representative Tim Walberg (MI-07) introduced H.R. 5041, the Safe Disposal of Unused Medication Act, in response to America's opioid crisis. Representatives Debbie Dingell (MI-12) and Richard Hudson (NC-08) joined Rep. Walberg as original co-sponsors of the bill. This legislation would help prevent the misuse or diversion of unused medications by equipping hospice professionals with the legal authority to safely dispose of unused drugs after a hospice patient's death.

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Social Security Numbers (SSNs) are being removed from Medicare cards to prevent fraud, fight identity theft, and keep taxpayer dollars safe. SSNs will be removed by April 2019 and a new Medicare Beneficiary Identifier (MBI) will replace the SSN-based Health Insurance Claim Number (HICN) on the new Medicare cards for Medicare transactions like billing, eligibility status, and claim status. Provider will need to use MBIs on claims after January 1, 2020.

Attend

May 9

Reimbursement Audio Conference

May 16

IL HPCO Regional meeting-Peoria
Transitions Hospice

May 16

Danville Hospice-Veteran Partnership
Conference

October 10-11

IL HPCO Annual Conference,
Northern Illinois University, Naperville

August 22

Reimbursement Audio Conference

December 4

Reimbursement Audio Conference

Legislative Update — Betsy D. Mitchell, IL-HPCO Legislative Consultant



The second session of the 100th General Assembly is well under way with new legislation proposed and the Governor's budget under consideration. Much of the focus in Springfield is centered around the Illinois Primary on March 20, 2018.

On Wednesday, January 31, 2018, Governor Rauner offered his fourth State of the State Address to a joint session of the Illinois House and Senate. Most believe his overall tone was more upbeat than in his previous addresses. He named numerous positive aspects about Illinois, including his recent collaborative efforts to lure Amazon to invest in Illinois. He also promised to introduce a balanced budget during his upcoming budget address in two weeks.

Each year in January, the sitting Governor offers his State of the State Address. Typically, this speech includes uplifting views of the successes that a Governor has achieved during the last year. However, the most anticipated speech is the presentation of the Governor's budget address which is a primary factor in setting the tone for the spring session of the General Assembly. It is following this speech that action in the General Assembly will start to heat up as it focuses on the governor's proposed budget.

On Wednesday, February 28th, the 2018 Advocacy Day was held in Springfield. In addition to meeting with key legislators and staff, we met with the Medicaid Director, Assistant Medicaid Director, and the Assistant Comptroller (on payment timing).

Issues to be discussed include Hospice Care and billing issues. Plan to join us for our next Advocacy Day in Springfield. Your expertise and time are vital to our issues being heard and addressed.

To date, IL-HPCO is closely watching a newly introduced bill regarding advance directives registry. We plan to provide input into the bill. Please let us know if you would like to have input into this legislation being proposed by the Illinois State Bar Association. Senate Bill 2296 (Senator Julie Morrison, D/Deerfield) calls for Illinois Department of Public Health to establish the Advance Directives Registry, under which Illinois residents may submit specified advance directive forms to the IDPH. The information will be made available to hospitals. IDPH would be required to adopt rules implementation. Additional provisions in the bill are included. For more information, please contact me at Betsy@cook-witter.com.



By purchasing the Illinois Hospice License Plate, you contribute to the Illinois Hospice Fund administered by the Illinois Department of Public Health for the distribution of grants for hospice services. To order visit <https://il-hpco.org>.

Legislative Visits

In January, Kristin James-Greater Illinois Pediatric Palliative Care Coalition, Sara Dado-Transitions, and Pam Cramer-IL-HPCO, made visits to Representative Laura Fine and to Daniel Biss' Chief of Staff, Josh Braude. The objective of these visits was to make sure that hospice benefits and needs are understood, and continue established relationships with these legislators. It's very easy to set up visits in Springfield, or in the congressional district office. All you need to do is call the local or Springfield office of your legislator. They are very receptive to seeing their constituents. Start the 45-60 minutes visit by asking them if they've had any experience with hospice or palliative care (almost all have), then explain that you're with a local hospice and tell them about a particularly memorable case and the importance of their continued support.



Sara Dado, Kristin James, Rep. Fines, Pam Cramer



Josh Braude (Daniel Biss Chief of Staff), Kristin James, Pam Cramer

CREATING CONNECTIONS
building for the future

IL-HPCO ANNUAL CONFERENCE
OCTOBER 10-11
NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY, NAPERVILLE

2018 FEATURED SPEAKERS

- Tom Cornwell, MD**
CEO-Home Centered Care Institute, Founder, HomeCare Physicians, Northwestern Medicine
- Dale Righter**
Illinois State Senator-55th District
- Edo Banach**
CEO-NHPCO
- Jennifer Kennedy**
Sr. Director Regulatory and Quality-NHPCO

Change to Claims Involving Transfer Situations

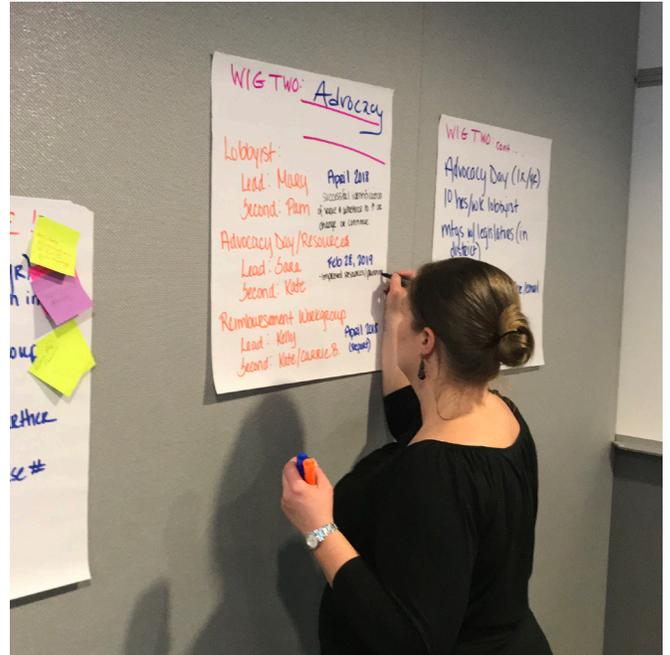
PLEASE SHARE WITH CLAIMS DEPARTMENT: For transfer situations on or after July 2, 2018, hospices are no longer to report the benefit start date as their admission date.

The two-tiered routine home care (RHC) rate implemented in 2016 posed a particular challenge with transfer scenarios since the Common Working File (CWF) and the Fiscal Intermediary Shared System (FISS) could not communicate in the manner required to tally the RHC days correctly. To address this, CMS directed hospices to employ a work around by reporting the benefit period start date as their admission date. CMS has now issued Change Request (CR) 10180 with technical instructions to the Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs) that will assure (theoretically, at least) proper communication between the internal claims processing systems.

IL-HPCO Board of Directors Strategic Planning Session

The Board engaged in an intensive and energetic planning session in February. Through the facilitation of Seasons Executive Coach and Facilitator, Sarah McKinnon, it was determined that Advocacy and Education will be the primary focus for IL-HPCO in 2018.

We are happy to continue our focus on Advocacy. According to our Legislative Consultant, Betsy Mitchell, IL-HPCO has the primary presence in the State as experts in hospice and palliative care, through our past and current efforts, including:



Director, Kate Proctor taking notes during the strategic planning session.



Board of Directors voting by raising paddles.

- Hospice care continues to be part of the services Medicaid provides in Illinois.
- Strong working relationship with the IL Department of Healthcare and Family Services as well as the Illinois Comptroller's Office and IDPH.
- IL Senator Dale Righter sits on the IL-HPCO Board
- IL-HPCO was one of the first organizations invited to the table when the SMART Act (reforming of Medicaid) was being negotiated. This was extremely vital because Hospice care was scheduled to be eliminated.
- IL-HPCO will be training our members on how to meet with their district legislators and continue the discussion about hospice and palliative care.

*SAVE THE DATE:
Danville Hospice Veteran
Partnership Conference-May 16, 2018*

The Annual Danville Hospice-Veteran Partnership conference will be held Wed., May 16, 2018 at the Danville Area Community College, whose campus adjoins that of the VA Medical Center. More details closer to the event. To be added to the invitation emails, please contact Melissa A. Nelson, Palliative Care Coordinator, at Melissa.Nelson6@va.gov (217) 554-5137.

Preparing Veterans and Their Families for the Future. Veterans, their families and professionals who serve them are invited to this symposium on understanding the lifelong impact of military culture and how to best support our aging American heroes.

Tuesday, March 13, 2018
10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Concord Place Retirement Community
401 W Lake St, Northlake, IL 60164
RSVP LRockwell@journeycare.org or
(847) 556-1778

Presented by Illinois Northern Tier Hospice-Veteran Partnership, a We Honor Veterans organization.

Participating organizations include:
Dignity Memorial,

Jesse Brown VAMC, Hines VAMC, James A Lovell FHCC, and community hospices. Please visit our resource table for more information on Veteran hospice providers.



Illinois Hospice Statistics

- 143 Licensed Agencies**
- 130 Licensed and Medicare Certified**
- 13 Licensed only**
- 62 Deemed/Accredited**
- 8 Medicare certified in bordering state**
- 9 Hospice Licensed Residences**
- Annual License for Hospice Residence...6 slots open**

August 1- December 31 2017 data



*MCO Payment Problems?
use the Portal!*

Healthcare and Family Services recognizes the importance of providers having a mechanism for reporting and resolving issues encountered with an individual Medicaid MCO. For issues that cannot be resolved using existing processes designated by the managed care organization, a new provider complaint portal was introduced in February 2017 to facilitate prompt and fair resolution of disputes between managed care organizations and providers. Issues impacting immediate access to care will be expedited. The address to the portal follows: <https://www.illinois.gov/hfs/MedicalProviders/cc/Pages/Managed-CareComplaints.aspx>

Make sure you use this portal to file complaints. The more activity IL-HPCO creates with payment issues, the faster they will get resolved for everyone.

IL-HPCO Goes to Springfield

Once again, Advocacy Day was a success. Fifteen IL-HPCO Hospice Agency members and nearly 30 IL-HPCO leaders talked. IL-HPCO's Legislative Consultant, Betsy Mitchell, arranged meetings with Senator Daniel Biss, a Gubernatorial candidate, and Representative Laura Fine from the Comptroller's Office. We discussed payment and MCO issues with multiple legislators. "How to talk to your Legislator" training will be offered at Regional meetings, first on May 16th in Peoria.



Advocacy Day
Training.

IL-HPCO's Betsy
Mitchell with
Senator Biss.



Northern Illinois Hospice
with Rep. Joe Sosnowski.



Senator Biss with Illinois hospice representatives.



Joliet Area Community
Hospice leaders with
Rep. Welter.

Transitions Hospice,
GIPPCC and
Rep. Laura Fine



Faces of IL-HPCO
in the Senate Room
in the Capitol.

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