**Legislative Update**

by Betsy D. Mitchell, IL-HPCO Legislative Consultant

**Medical Marijuana: Senate Bill 10 (Public Act) Signed into Law by Governor Rauner (06-30-16) now Public Act 99-0519** — Terminal illness is now added to the list of health conditions that may be allowed to legally purchase marijuana with no fee for the expedited application. 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 and was signed into law by the Governor on June 30, 2016.

**Advocacy:** Summertime is a great time to visit with your legislators. They have more time to listen and learn about hospice issues. You can visit them in their district office or invite him/her to a function your organization is hosting so they can see first-hand what Hospice is all about. Let me know if you want more advocacy tips or need to find out who represents you. I am always happy to help you advocate for Hospice. Contact me at Betsy@cook-witter.com

**Attend**

**IL HPCO REGIONAL MEETING-BELLEVILLE**

*August 23, 2016, 11:30-1:30*

- Michael McHale-Introduction
- Kate Proctor-Regulatory Update
- Betsy Mitchell-Legislative Activities
- Carrie Bill-Financial Tips

**Memorial Orthopedic and Neurosciences Center, 4700 Memorial Drive-Belleville**

**IL HPCO ANNUAL EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE**

*September 21-22, 2016*

REGISTER NOW at [www.il-hpco.org](http://www.il-hpco.org)

**Meet**

**NEW BOARD MEMBERS**

- KIM KRANZ, CELTIC HEALTHCARE
- KELLIE NEWMAN, VITAS
[https://il-hpco.org/about-us/leadership/](https://il-hpco.org/about-us/leadership/)

**In this**

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- Attend EDUCATIONAL EVENTS
- Meet New Board Members
- Hospice Palmettogba TIPS
- Honoring Veterans
- CMS
HOSPICE TIPS from Palmetto

Local Coverage Determination (LCD) Updates: Home Health and Hospice
The Home Health Speech-Language Pathology L34563, Home Health Physical Therapy L34564, Home Health Occupational Therapy L34560 and Hospice- Liver disease L34544 were revised. Hospice Neurological Conditions L34547 LCDs were revised for JM HHH. Please share with appropriate staff.
http://www.palmettogba.com/palmetto/providers.nsf/vMasterDiD/9DGMCT8285?opendocument

Certification/Recertification
Providers must ensure a complete written certification of terminal illness from the Hospice Medical Director, that includes the benefit dates that the certification covers to support the Hospice services billed on the appropriate dates of service, are well documented.

Comprehensive Error Rate Testing (CERT) Error: Medical Necessity Not Met
When a hospice provider receives a Comprehensive Error Rate Testing (CERT) error for medically unnecessary service or treatment the indication is that the hospice services provided were not reasonable and necessary such as the submitted documentation does not support a terminal prognosis, the beneficiary is stable, without significant decline, weight loss; or there is little change since election of the benefit. Please share with appropriate staff.

What documentation is needed to support terminal illness?
Terminal illness documentation may include the following: the history, progression of illness/disease, recent changes, exacerbation of symptoms, comorbidities, secondary conditions, variables that are measureable, labs, PPS/Karnofsky scale, FAST scale for Alzheimer’s patients, weight loss, BMI, percentage of meals eaten, vital signs, IDG meeting notes. Please share with appropriate staff.

Discharges and Revocations Chart—Share with your staff.....
Palmetto GBA has updated the Hospice Discharges and Revocations Chart which includes discharge reason and status codes. Please review this document and share it with your staff.
WE HONOR VETERANS—
ADVOCACY TOOLKIT

Why We Honor Veterans and Advocacy?

You don’t have to travel to Washington, DC to build relationships with your Members of Congress. In fact, We Honor Veterans partners are already poised to engage Members of Congress, state, and local officials. All elected officials are concerned about the welfare of our nation’s veterans, and the We Honor Veterans program can be an effective way to engage Members of Congress in discussions about hospice.

We admit, developing relationships with Members of Congress can seem intimidating at first. That’s why We Honor Veterans and the Hospice Action Network developed this toolkit to share best practices in advocacy and how We Honor Veterans partners can apply them for your Hospice Advocacy.

General Advocacy Resources

In-District Meeting Resources

- Enter your program or patient’s zip code here to determine their member of Congress
- Request an In-district Meeting
- Thank you form for an in-district meeting

Site Visit Resources

- The Perfect Hospice Site Visit (5-part video series)
- Inviting a Member of Congress to your program and Follow-up on an invitation request
- Template for creating program-specific fact sheet to share information with your Members of Congress
- Sample Privacy Release Form
- Sample Press Release

Veterans-Specific Advocacy Resources

- How Congress can Partner with We Honor Veterans
- October 2015 Congressional Briefing Video
- Involving a Member of Congress in a We Honor Veterans Honor Ceremony
Contact Information

Do you need help contacting your Member of Congress or have questions on involving them in a WHV event? Contact HAN’s Lauren Drew at ldrew@nhpco.org (link sends e-mail) or 703-837-3148.

Do you have questions regarding We Honor Veterans? Ask us at veterans@nhpco.org (link sends e-mail).

Click here to find contact information for local Veteran’s Administrations.

CMS - HOSPICE QRP and SNF

Post-Acute Care Quality Reporting Programs

Hospice QRP: Reconsideration Period Ends Soon

CMS mailed notifications to hospices that were determined to be out of compliance with Hospice Quality Reporting requirements for CY 2015, which will affect their FY 2017 APU. These letters were mailed on or before June 29. **Hospices that receive a letter of non-compliance may submit a request for reconsideration to CMS within thirty (30) days after the date documented on the non-compliance notification letter. CMS will not accept any requests submitted after the thirty (30) day deadline. If you receive a notice of non-compliance and would like to request a reconsideration, see the instructions in your notification letter and on the [Reconsideration Requests](mailto:veterans@nhpco.org) webpage.**