



## ***Missouri Alliance for HOME CARE***

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October 27, 2016

### **Recent Hospice Updates (from NAHC)**

#### **List of Hospices That Met FY2017 Quality Reporting Requirements**

As stated in the [FY 2016 Hospice Wage Index and Payment Rate Update and Hospice Quality Reporting Requirements](#), CMS has published a list of Hospices who successfully met the reporting requirements after all reconsideration requests have been processed. This report will be updated on an annual basis. View the list [here](#) or under the downloads section of the [Hospice Quality Reporting Program \(HQRP\) Requirements and Best Practices webpage](#).

An executive summary of the results from HIS measure testing analysis can be found [here](#) or in the “Downloads” section of the [Current Measures](#) webpage. This document contains measure testing analysis results for the current HIS-based quality measures, including reportability, distribution and variability, reliability, validity, and disparities.

#### **Hospice Data Directory**

The Regional Office (RO) and State coordinator list has been updated on the Hospice Data Directory page, located at <https://data.medicare.gov/>. This is the contact list for updating information in the CMS Automated Survey Processing Environment (ASPEN). If the information on the Hospice Data Directory is incorrect, contact the RO or State coordinator listed for your area.

Of note: information on the Hospice Data Directory is updated quarterly.

#### **CMS Releases New Data on Medicare Hospice Utilization and Payment**

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services is pleased to announce the release of a new public data set on Medicare hospice utilization and payment. The Hospice Utilization and Payment Public Use File (Hospice PUF) is a comprehensive resource for information on hospice utilization, payments, submitted charges, diagnoses, and beneficiary demographics organized by hospice provider and state. With this data, it is now possible to analyze geographic variation in the delivery of hospice care, as well as variation across individual hospice providers. The Hospice PUF also includes a number of metrics on hospice beneficiary demographics and sites of service to facilitate analyses of differences in the patient population across providers.

The public data set includes information on 4,025 hospice providers, over 1.3 million hospice beneficiaries, and over \$15 billion in Medicare payments for 2014. It does not contain any individually identifiable information about Medicare beneficiaries.

For more information, you can view our Press Release, Fact Sheet or visit the [Hospice Utilization and Payment Public Use File website](#).

### **CMS Extends Extraordinary Circumstances**

As anticipated, CMS has extended the “Extraordinary Circumstances” due to nursing shortage. The link below will take you to the survey and cert memo announcing the extension.

Extraordinary Circumstances due to Nursing Shortage: The period of time has been extended for a hospice agency to elect an exemption to allow for the contracting of nurses pursuant to “extraordinary circumstance” as noted at 42 CFR 418.64 when it believes that the nursing shortage has affected its ability to directly hire sufficient numbers of nurses. • Extension: This policy is effective through September 30, 2018.

Impact of Nursing Shortage on Hospice Care: <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Provider-Enrollment-and-Certification/SurveyCertificationGenInfo/Policy-and-Memos-to-States-and-Regions-Items/Survey-and-Cert-Letter-17-01.html?DLPage=1&DLEntries=10&DLSort=3&DLSortDir=descending>

Thank you,  
Carol Hudspeth  
Executive Director