



Hospice Action Network Hill Day, June 2023
Frequently Asked Questions

NHPCO and HAN

What is NHPCO?

- The National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization (NHPCO) is the nation’s largest and oldest membership association for providers who care for people affected by serious and life-limiting illness. Our members deliver and expand access to high-quality, person-centered interdisciplinary care to millions of Americans. Together with our advocacy partner, the Hospice Action Network (HAN), we serve as the leading voice advancing public policy to improve serious-illness and end-of-life care. Our CaringInfo program provides free resources to educate and empower patients and caregivers.
- Comprised of almost 4,000 locations with more than 60,000 staff and thousands of volunteers, as well as 47 state organizations, NHPCO members serve the majority of Medicare hospice beneficiaries. Our members make up a broad community of members including local hospice and palliative care providers, networks serving large regions of the United States, and individual professionals. In other words, at our organization every form of hospice, big or small, nonprofit or for, has representation.
- NHPCO works to expand access to a proven person-centered model for healthcare—one that is mission-driven, person-centered, and community-oriented.

What is HAN?

- HAN is the 501c4 partner of NHPCO.
- NHPCO sets the public policy agenda through member input and HAN implements that agenda.

Hospice and Palliative Care

- Hospice care is provided to patients who meet certain eligibility criteria, including a prognosis of six months to live if the disease follows its expected course.
- Hospice provides supportive - not curative - care. Generally, this care is provided in the patient's home or wherever the patient calls home including assisted living facilities, nursing homes, and long-term care facilities.
- By delivering high-quality care at home, hospice helps to keep patients out of expensive care settings like hospitals, ICUs, and emergency departments. Recent research has shown that in 2019 alone, hospice care resulted in \$3.5 billion in savings to Medicare.

- Most hospice care is provided through Medicare. Medicaid and private health insurance also cover hospice services.

How is hospice care provided?

- All hospice providers offer palliative care services to their patients. Palliative care provides support to achieve the best possible quality of life for patients and their families.
- The hospice team develops a care plan that meets the needs and wishes of each patient and the needs of family caregivers. The hospice care team makes regular visits, provides assessments, care, and services. Hospice staff are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- The hospice care team provides a variety of services including pain and symptom management; emotional, psychosocial, and spiritual support; drugs, medical supplies, and equipment; physical therapy, speech therapy, and even music and art therapy; short-term inpatient care available when symptoms cannot be managed at home, or the caregiver needs respite time.
- The hospice interdisciplinary team usually consists of the patient's personal physician; a hospice physician; nurses; hospice aides; social workers; spiritual care providers or other counselors; bereavement professionals; speech, physical, and/or other occupational therapists; and trained volunteers.