

Summary of Hospice Updates in Recent CMS Open Door Forum

Source: NAHC, January 18, 2024

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) held its most recent Home Health, Hospice and DME Open Door Forum on Wednesday, January 10, 2024. Following are the hospice items that were discussed.

The next Care Compare refresh will be in February. The Provider Preview reports for this refresh were made available to hospices in their CASPER folders in November 2023.

The next CAHPS Hospice Survey submission deadline is February 14, 2024. Survey data from Q3 2023 (July – September) is included in this submission. Hospices are encouraged to check the Data Warehouse to ensure their vendor has submitted the data on their behalf.

In the Q&A portion of the Forum, CMS was asked if there will be an update to the hospice interpretive guidelines (CMS State Operations Manual (SOM), Appendix M) to reflect the option to include Marriage and Family Therapist (MFT)/Mental Health Counselor (MHC) in the hospice interdisciplinary group (IDG). CMS responded that its Q&As specific to this topic are currently going through the clearance process and are expected to be posted soon, perhaps the week of January 15. Once the Q&As have been finalized and posted, CMS will be working on the interpretive guidelines, which will take some time, and posting these updates via a QSO memo. Stay tuned to NAHC Report for more information as it becomes available.

Listeners were also interested in any HOPE (Hospice Outcome & Patient Evaluation) updates. CMS indicated that the next update will be in the hospice proposed rule scheduled to be released this spring.