

PAHPM Making Pathways for PAs in Hospice Care



PAHPM Past President Donna Seton presenting at the Impact 2012 Townhall on the PA in Hospice Care Act. After many years of advocating, the bill has passed.

The Medicare Patient Access to Hospice Act passed on February 9th opened many doors for PA practice in hospice and palliative medicine (HPM). This legislation allows PAs to act as the attending physician for hospice patients when previously, Medicare only allowed physicians and nurse practitioners in this role. Since the passage of the bill, PAHPM has been working with AAPA to ensure a smooth transition for PAs into hospice care. Most recently, PAHPM received an update from the federal register on PA practice in hospice. This update was a 30-page document open for commenting on the proposed rule. PAHPM is working with AAPA leadership and the reimbursement team to respond with comments.

Data collection about PA practice and education in HPM and questions about the PA role in HPM are being collected by PAHPM in order to formulate a FAQ document, move forward more legislation, and publish support for PA's in hospice and palliative care. Questions about HPM practice will be included in the PA Practice Survey at AAPA Impact 2018. PAHPM encourages all PAs to take this survey upon registering at AAPA as this will help gather data to further PA's careers and knowledge in HPM. The PAHPM PA Survey is also still open and available under the Advocacy tab at www.pahpm.org.

The education committee of PAHPM is also utilizing the survey information to match HPM education with what PAs are actually doing in the field as well as enhance "primary palliative care" skills. Education committee chairs, Nadya Dimitrov and Jeff Myers, are compiling syllabi for PA students to disseminate to other PAs in the specialty whom may be interested in precepting students. The education committee's 2018 goals include working with AAPA and PAEA on the development of PA student education as well as competencies to assist experienced PAs transition to the hospice specialty.

Next, PAHPM member Judy Knudson is working with the Palliative Care Research Cooperative and Dr. Amos Bailey on a survey asking physicians how they want to work with PAs in hospice care. The goal is to disseminate the survey to hospice MDs, hospice agencies, and hospice directors and eventually present the findings at AAHPM.

The PAHPM legislative committee is also continuing to promote PA practice in HPM. PAHPM Treasurer, Kathy Kemle will be participating in the annual Patient Quality of Life Coalition lobby day in Washington, DC on June 20, 2018 to advocate for PAs in our HPM.

Questions? Email us: info@pahpm.org

BOARD MEMBERS

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OF PRIME IMPORTANCE

PAHPM Annual Meeting
May 22, 2018
5-7p.m.

**Hilton New Orleans
Riverside Hotel
Royal Room**

Cannot Attend AAPA Impact 2018?
Attend Our Monthly Virtual Board Meeting
Email: info@pahpm.org for details!

IMPACT 2018 SCHEDULE for PAHPM

PAHPM will be active at the annual AAPA conference May 19-23 in New Orleans. There are many opportunities to get involved! Become a valuable part of the 21st century healthcare arena!

❖ Support your PAHPM members as they present on various hospice and palliative care topics:

Saturday May 19

- 1-2pm “Evading Emesis: Palliative Management of Nausea and Vomiting”
- 3-4pm “POLST 101”

Monday May 21

- 9-10am “Promoting Optimal Prescribing in Older Adults”

Tuesday May 22

- 1-2pm “Palliative Care National Consensus Guideline Update”
- 2-3pm “You Don’t Need to Take the Blue One Anymore: Deprescribing at the End of Life”

❖ Visit PAHPM’s table in the Exhibit Hall CO Central. A laptop will be available to complete the PA Practice Survey which includes questions about hospice and palliative medicine practice. Each PA who completes the survey will receive a **50% discount** for the CSU “What Every PA Needs to Know about PC” AND “Essential Skills about Palliative Care for Every Practitioner” courses!

❖ PAHPM member Jeanine Smith will represent the organization at the House of Delegates. PAHPM’s resolution requesting that AAPA supports inclusion of PAs in any proposed educational funding for health care providers in HPM and that AAPA will partner with other relevant associations to advance the progress of palliative care education will be voted on by the delegates.

❖ And don’t forget, **PAHPM’s Annual Meeting May 22nd from 5-7pm** in the Royal Room of the Hilton New Orleans Riverside Hotel!

Revised Draft of the National Coalition for Palliative Care Guidelines Completed

In 2002, the National Coalition for Hospice and Palliative Care begin the process of defining quality palliative care for the entire country through the National Consensus Project (NCP). Since this time, three revisions have been made to the original Clinical Practice Guidelines for Quality Palliative Care. The fourth revision is underway and several PAHPM members are actively involved in the NCP Steering Committee and NCP Writing workgroups. These guidelines **now include PAs as a practitioner of hospice and palliative medicine.** This current revision also has increased the focus on home and community- based care.

The final draft of this newest revision has been sent out to the 10 partners of the Coalition including PAHPM. The board will review these guidelines and provide input prior to the June 1st deadline. Once this is complete, more stakeholders will be asked to comment with goal of publication on October 31, 2018.

For more information, read Pathways Volume 2, Issue 1 or visit <https://www.nationalcoalitionhpc.org/ncp-guidelines-2018>.

Interested in helping PAHPM achieve our goals? Want to learn how to do *Primary Palliative Care* and be part of the new frontier in the history for PAs in Hospice & Palliative Medicine?

Join PAHPM today!

Visit us at our table in the Exhibit Hall at AAPA Impact 2018!

Legislation Updates

The Palliative Care and Hospice Education and Training Act (H.R. 1676) focuses on support of Palliative Care and Hospice Education Centers to improve training of health professionals in palliative care as well as establishment of palliative care internships. The bill has now been tagged on the opioid bill which may help it pass sooner.

H.R. 2797, Patient Choice and Care Act, includes PAs as part of the interdisciplinary team providing hospice and palliative medicine. This bill still needs more signatures before it can move forward.

Ask your representative for support of these bills at <http://www.congress.gov/> This is part of the new healthcare arena for PA practice!

CONTACT US

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