

Dear Members:

On Tuesday, November 11th, during our annual planning meeting we met with the Executive Director of the Utah Hospice & Palliative Care Organization and he presented the final proposal on the cooperative process created by the Hospice agencies representative and several of our facility administrators in meeting the new requirements that Hospices have with Skilled Facilities. The Executive committee agreed to work with the Hospice Industry and proceed using a standardized training and contract process. I am attaching the proposal along with the following documents:

1. The power point version of the Hospice training
2. A word document of the Hospice training.
3. A post test of the Hospice training
4. A certificate that facilities would use to verify they have trained their staff to the Hospice agencies.
5. A copy of a sample contract that contains the verbiage required in the new CoP's to use to complete the legal documentation.
6. UHPCO proposal to UHCA.

The new Hospice Conditions of Participation include a new requirement that all facility staff that have contact with a patient (that is both a facility patient and a Hospice patient) are trained on a short list of Hospice issues. The list is noted on the certification form and the Hospice agencies are giving us a brief in-service that can be used for all staff-Power point presentation or a written training to include in new employee orientations. Both would use the same post test. The reason that they are asking us to incorporate the training is to minimize the need for multiple Hospice agencies having to come in and train our staff so they can insure they are trained which is the new requirement.

There are new requirements as to the paperwork that both the facility provides and the Hospice agency would give to the facility when new hospice patients are admitted along with elements of coordination of care and communication. These new items along with other details are noted in the new contract.

We are requesting that over the next three months you try to complete the in-service training either by your own staff or by inviting Hospice agencies in your area to help you do the training. Also by the end of the year or soon after redoing the basic contract you have with each Hospice for general inpatient care and regular Hospice care delivered to your facility patients. Kelly Criddle of the Survey and Certification department of the state has said that the process looks fine and seems to be the simplest way to complete these new requirements.

If you have question about this process please contact us but even better you are invited to call Dan Hull, the Executive Director of the Utah Hospice & Palliative Care Organization for clarification and concerns. His number is 801-582-2245 or those long distant 1-888=325-4150.