FYI:

End to the HOSPICE PHE Waivers

HOSPICE FUNDAMENTALS SUBSCRIBER EMAILS — February 2023

The Least You Need to Know:

The administration has stated that they anticipate only extending the Public Health Emergency (PHE) one more month, ending the three-year-long PHE on April 11th, 2023. In March of 2020, a PHE was enacted due to COVID-19, allowing for a number of federal waivers and flexibilities to be leveraged throughout healthcare.

What's going on with the Waivers?

The questions have been swirling around for months…

"Are the waivers still in place?"

"Can we still use telehealth for face to face?"

The answer is…

*"**Yes!** The CMS waivers are still in place — for NOW".*

It appears the White House will be extending the PHE, set to expire in April, for one more month… Which takes us to the projected end date of May 11th, 2023. This wind-down would align with the administration's previous commitments to give at least 60 days' notice prior to termination of the PHE.

Last year, CMS released guidance related to COVID-19 waivers for home health and hospice providers. Some waivers will end the day that the pandemic ends, while others will continue for an additional 60 days after the PHE ends or until the end of the year.

Actions of a Prudent Home Health Agency™

Links to More Information

CMS guidance for Hospice agencies:
https://www.cms.gov/files/document/hospice-cms-flexibilities-fight-covid-19.pdf

ONE. Stay informed. This change has been announced, but not yet final. Be sure to tune into Hospice Fundamentals for updates! Review the CMS guidance to for each waiver to see the timeframe that CMS will mandate full compliance.

TWO. Take account of your agency's practices. Review which waivers you are currently still using. Are you using telehealth for your FTF? Had you pressed pause on your hospice aide 12 hours of yearly training? Are you providing hospice aide supervision by phone? Understand the which discontinued waivers will impact your agency.

THREE. Create a road map. Include timing and steps for your agency to return to full compliance for each waiver being used.

CHECK IT OUT

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