

The Least You Need to Know: After the intense scrutiny in the Hospice Industry over the last several years, it is a breath of fresh air to see that CMS still values the work that hospice provides and approved a small increase in next year's payment.

Each year, CMS proposes a payment rule in the spring and after the 60-day comment period and analysis, gives the industry the news on what the payment adjustment may look like. CMS may also take this opportunity to provide additional changes in the quality measures or Conditions of Participation.

What Are the Highlights?

The FY 2024 hospice payment update percentage is 3.1% (an estimated increase of \$780 million in payments from FY 2023), applied at all levels of care.

The hospice payment update includes a statutory aggregate cap limiting the overall payments per patient made to a hospice annually. The hospice cap amount for FY 2024 is \$33,494.01, compare to the FY 2023 cap amount (\$32,486.92). This increase comes from the FY 2024 hospice payment change of 3.1%.

Certifying hospice physicians and attending physicians (MD/DO) selected by the hospice patient at election, must now be PECOS enrolled or have opted out of Medicare.

In response to concerns raised by the Hospice Industry, CMS will not implement or enforce this requirement until May 1, 2024, to allow un-enrolled and non-opted-out physicians more time to either enroll or opt-out of the Medicare program.

Actions of a Prudent Hospice Agency™

ONE. When budgeting for 2024, plan on the 3.1% adjustment, plus or minus your agency's CBSA rate change.

TWO. Ensure all of your hospice physicians are PECOS enrolled or have a valid "opt-out" from Medicare.

THREE. Run a report of your most often chosen "attending physicians" in the community. Review the top MD/DO choices. Look up these providers to ensure they meet the new Medicare PECOS requirement. Provide education if a provider is not currently enrolled, so you can ensure enrollment or a valid opt-out is obtained prior to the May 1st, 2024 due date.

**Link to
More
Info**

Read the Final Rule

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2023/08/02/2023-16116/medicare-program-fy-2024-hospice-wage-index-and-payment-rate-update-hospice-conditions-of>



HOSPICE FUNDAMENTALS

KNOWLEDGE • EXPERTISE • COMMON SENSE