



Home Health & Hospice Weekly: Recap of LeadingAge Updates

August 20, 2021

David Grabowski to appear on LeadingAge Coronavirus Update Call on Monday. More mandate discussion and talk about maintaining staff morale on Wednesday. On **Monday, August 23 at 3:30 PM ET, David Grabowski**, Professor of Health Care Policy at Harvard Medical School and widely covered national commentator and expert on nursing home policy will join the Update Call to talk about the vaccine mandate plans announced by CMS on August 18. David has deep knowledge of long-term care issues and a deep and clear understanding of providers. We'll chat about other hot policy and operational topics as well.

Making the vaccine a condition of employment is on the top of minds for LeadingAge members, more so with this week's announcements. On **Wednesday, August 25 at 3:30**, we will provide some strategies that members have used to prepare for a mandate and how to handle considerations like exemptions and policies. Staff morale is more important these days for LeadingAge members. Join us to hear from **Christy Zeitz** from member Fellowship Square communities who will share how her staff is working to bolster morale amid trying times. Join us Monday to also hear the latest policy developments and to hear about LeadingAge's relevant advocacy work. If you haven't registered for the calls, [you can do so here](#).

CMS Webinar on the FY 2022 Hospice Final Rule: What Hospices Need to Know. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) will be hosting a webinar on Tuesday, August 31, 2021, from 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. ET. The purpose of this training is to educate providers about the changes in the Hospice Quality Reporting Program (HQRP) resulting from the Hospice Final Rule. This webinar will cover an overview of the fiscal year (FY) 2022 Hospice Final Rule, detail the changes included in the rule, and describe the public reporting of quality measures (QMs) for hospices. [CLICK HERE](#) to register for The FY 2022 Hospice Final Rule: What Hospices Need to Know! webinar.

COVID-19 Vaccines Additional Doses: Codes & Payment. The FDA amended the emergency use authorizations (EUAs) for both the [Pfizer BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine](#) and the [Moderna COVID-19 vaccine](#) to allow for an additional dose in certain immunocompromised people. Effective August 12, 2021, CMS will pay to administer additional doses of COVID-19 vaccines consistent with the FDA EUAs, using [CPT code 0003A](#) for the Pfizer vaccine and [CPT code 0013A](#) for the Moderna vaccine. CMS will pay the same amount to administer this additional dose as they did for other doses of the COVID-19 vaccine (approximately \$40 each). CMS will hold and then process all claims with these codes after we complete claims system updates (no later than August 27).

Learn more about Medicare COVID-19 vaccine:

- [COVID-19 Vaccine Codes](#)
- [Payment](#)

["The Critical Role of Monoclonal Antibodies as the COVID-19 Pandemic Continues" Webinar Recording Available.](#) The Health Resources and Services Administration recently held a webinar featuring Michael

R. Anderson, MD, a Senior Advisor to HHS' Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response, who discussed how monoclonal antibody therapeutics can help prevent serious illness from COVID-19. Dr. Anderson shared updates on [available COVID-19 therapeutics](#) including efficacy, new administration routes and novel treatments in the pipeline, reimbursement resources, and provider and patient tools and fact sheets. For further questions, [contact Dr. Anderson and his team](#).

MLN article on FQHCs and RHC billing for Hospice Attending Physician Services. An MLN matters article on this new policy, effective Jan 1, 2022, can be found at <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/mm12357.pdf>

CDC and White House announce plans for boosters. Meanwhile, HHS public health and medical experts released a [joint statement](#) today on the plan for COVID-19 booster doses. HHS, CDC, and FDA continue to study data to understand how long vaccine protection lasts. Right now the only booster doses approved by FDA and the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) are for immunocompromised people. CDC's independent advisory committee, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, will continue to meet and discuss data on the evolution of the pandemic and the use of COVID-19 vaccines. ACIP will make further recommendations on the use of boosters for the public after a thorough review of the evidence. People who were fully vaccinated earliest in the vaccination rollout, including many health care providers, nursing home residents, and other seniors, will likely be eligible for a booster.

New CDC reports on vaccine effectiveness. CDC also put out three new Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Reports (MMWRs) today on vaccine effectiveness.

- **Sustained Effectiveness of Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna Vaccines Against COVID-19-Associated Hospitalizations Among Adults — United States, March–July 2021**
Key finding: Among 1,129 patients who got two doses of mRNA vaccine, no decline in effectiveness against hospitalization was observed for 24 weeks. Vaccine effectiveness was 86% 2-12 weeks after vaccine and 84% at 13-24 weeks. The duration of protection is uncertain after that.
https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/70/wr/mm7034e2.htm?s_cid=mm7034e2_w
- **New COVID-19 Cases and Hospitalizations Among Adults, by Vaccination Status — New York, May 3–July 25, 2021**
Key finding: During the period from May 3 – July 25, 2021, vaccines prevented hospitalization in NY 91-95%. Vaccine effectiveness against infection during that period for all adults in NY declined from 91.7% to 79.8%.
https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/70/wr/mm7034e1.htm?s_cid=mm7034e1_w
- **Effectiveness of Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna Vaccines in Preventing SARS-CoV-2 Infection Among Nursing Home Residents Before and After Widespread Circulation of the SARS-CoV-2 B.1.617.2 (Delta) Variant — National Healthcare Safety Network, March 1–August 1, 2021**
Key finding: Two doses of mRNA vaccines were 74.7% effective for nursing home residents early in the program, from March to May. During June to July, 2021, when the Delta variant circulation predominated, effectiveness declined to 53.1%.
https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/70/wr/mm7034e3.htm?s_cid=mm7034e3_w

New CDC Forecasting Center. CDC announced that it has created a new center to forecast and analyze disease outbreaks and make data more accessible to public health experts and policymakers. The new Center for Forecasting and Outbreak analytics will be funded with money from last spring's relief bill. In trying to rely on states to identify and monitor outbreaks of COVID, many observed the country's patchwork system, often with outdated surveillance systems in states, systems that just couldn't keep up. This center aims to provide a national focal point for tracking and reporting.

Update from Capitol Hill. Congress has adjourned until around September 20, except that the House will have to return to vote on the budget resolution (needed to give the House and Senate committees their "marching orders") and leadership will have to decide when to vote on the bipartisan infrastructure bill. The Speaker has indicated that the House will reconvene next week and vote probably on both of these Senate-passed provisions. Our advocacy task is to make sure that the bills that will proceed by reconciliation contain our robust but essential advocacy asks on behalf of the aging services community and the people we serve and who work with us, so please continue to share the [Advocacy Alert](#) and encourage your members to contact their representative and senators.

Hospice and Home Health Open Door Forum on Thursday Aug 26th at 2pm ET. The next Home Health, Hospice & DME Open Door Forum is scheduled for: Thursday, August 26, 2021 PM at 2:00-3:00 PM Eastern Time (ET). The agenda will cover the hospice FY2022 rule, hospice updates and public reporting, CY2022 home health PPS rule (comments close on 8/27), the home health quality reporting program updates, and updates to the Home Health CAHPS survey.

Open Door Participation Instructions: This call will be Conference Call Only. To participate by phone:

Dial: 1-888-455-1397 & Reference Conference Passcode: 8604468

New Home Health Quality Reporting Program Webinar Available. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) invites Home Health providers to listen to the [Home Health Quality Reports Program's OASIS Interim Guidance Webinar](#). In an effort to provide an overview of important OASIS data collection clarifications, CMS has developed this webinar to highlight some of the more significant OASIS guidance refinements that have been made available in recent Quarterly Q&A releases. Please note that this webinar is NOT intended to provide basic or comprehensive OASIS training. The training materials can be accessed via the [Home Health Quality Reporting Program Training](#) page.

Smart Planning for the Future of Your Organization. Nonprofit boards of directors play a critical role in guiding our organizations through turbulent times. That's why LeadingAge has invested considerable time and energy developing new governance tools. The first, [Strategic Foresight and Strategy Development](#), offers a practical guide to help boards anticipate future changes, articulate them to stakeholders, and then take action. LeadingAge members receive a 50% discount on already reduced pricing for early adopters.

LeadingAge Annual Meeting + EXPO Presents Tech Sessions. The COVID-19 pandemic has elevated the importance of technology in senior living, and CAST is bringing you invaluable information on how best to position your organization. Be sure to attend the [LeadingAge Annual Meeting + EXPO](#) and the carefully prepared [sessions](#) on the Aging Services Technologies Track, Oct. 24-27, 2021, in Atlanta. [Register today!](#)