



Hospice Weekly Recap

May 8, 2026

Weekly National Policy Pulse Calls. Join more than 1000 of your LeadingAge peers for our National Policy Pulse calls where we keep members equipped to navigate the ever-evolving landscape of aging services national policy. The calls are on Mondays at 3:30 p.m. ET. If you're interested in signing up for these members-only calls, please sign up using [the link on our National Policy Pulse webpage](#).

FY2027 Hospice Rule LeadingAge Member Meetings: In order to provide adequate time for member feedback on the proposals in the FY2027 Hospice Rule we are offering three different sessions focused on specific topics. We encourage members to engage staff including CFOs, palliative care teams, and compliance and quality managers.

- **Tuesday, May 12 at 2pm ET – Hospice Member Network:** During this meeting, members will discuss the payment update for FY2026, the request for information on hospice wage index changes, the establishment of G-Codes for telehealth face-to-face. [Sign up here](#).
- **Wednesday, May 13 at 2pm ET – Special Palliative Care Provider Meeting:** During this meeting, members will discuss the request for information on community-based palliative care. Members who have Part B billing practices for palliative care as well as home health agencies supporting palliative care are encouraged to join and share their perspectives of current billing and quality challenges. [Register here](#).
- **Friday, May 15 at 11am ET – Reschedule Hospice Quality and Compliance Workgroup:** During this meeting, members will review the Services and Spending Variation Index in detail as well as the proposal to require an election addendum for every patient. We will also discuss the proposed Care Compare Icon for non-compliance with the Hospice Quality Reporting Program. [Register here](#).

CMS Survey and Quality Center Announces Quarterly Stakeholder Webinar. On Tuesday, May 12, 12 - 1 p.m. ET, the Center for Clinical Standards and Quality (CCSQ), which oversees surveys, quality programs, and value-based purchasing programs will host a stakeholder webinar. Dr. Dora Hughes, Chief Medical Officer of CMS and Director of CCSQ, as well as the CCSQ leadership team will provide updates on work to strengthen health care quality, safety, and coverage. Hear the latest on recent policy developments and how these efforts are accelerating progress toward improving care and outcomes for beneficiaries in Medicare, Medicaid, and the Marketplace. [Register](#) for this webinar.

CMS Posts HQRP Forum Recording and Materials. On February 26, 2026, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) hosted an HQRP Forum entitled *HOPE for the Future*. Providers can now access the materials including the slides, transcript, and the recorded video in the Downloads section on the [Provider and Stakeholder Engagement | CMS](#) webpage. During the discussion CMS reviewed a series of Q&As of common questions raised with CMS including questions around medications and symptom follow up visit timing, and coding expectations for principle diagnosis, comorbidities, and General Inpatient coding. LeadingAge was pleased to see these clarifications and will continue to seek their incorporation into the HOPE guidance documents.

Web Accessibility Compliance Date Delayed under HHS' Section 504 Regulations: The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) issued an [Interim Final Rule](#), available for public inspection, which extends the compliance dates for the web content and mobile application accessibility requirements under HHS' Section 504 regulations which prohibit disability-based discrimination in programs and activities receiving HHS funding. The compliance date for recipients with 15 or more employees is extended from May 11,

2026, to May 11, 2027. The compliance date for recipients with fewer than 15 employees is extended from May 10, 2027, to May 10, 2028. This delay is not completely unexpected, given that the Department of Justice recently issued its own [Interim Final Rule](#) that delays the compliance date of its web accessibility rule for Title II entities under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and many recipients of HHS funding are also public entities under Title II of the ADA.

CMS Clarifies How to Fix Death Date Errors in Medicare Records. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) acknowledges that Medicare records can incorrectly show that a patient has died, or the records list the wrong date of death. To help providers correct these errors and avoid unpaid claims until corrections are submitted, CMS has developed a [Fact Sheet](#) to understand where these errors come from and how to fix incorrect dates of death.

LeadingAge Calls for Restoring Previous Safe Harbors and Establishing New Antitrust Guidance on AI Collusion. LeadingAge submitted comments urging the Department of Justice and the Federal Trade Commission to reinstate certain antitrust safe harbors and to develop new guidance addressing business collaborations and potential collusion involving shared artificial intelligence tools. In our May 1 response to the Agencies' February 2026 public inquiry, we emphasized the importance of clear, updated guidance specific to health care providers and additional guidance to assist nonprofit organizations such as LeadingAge in routine business activities. Specifically, we called for the re-establishment of safe harbors that were eliminated when prior guidance was withdrawn. These safe harbors provided bright-line standards for certain types of competitor collaborations, such as clinically integrated provider networks, and criteria that permit organizations to collect, analyze, and disseminate data from and among competitors through third-party entities. Without such guardrails, organizations are left to guess whether routine, beneficial collaborations could expose them to antitrust scrutiny, creating uncertainty and risk. We also argued for the Agencies to establish specific guidelines related to artificial intelligence that when utilized collectively may lead to algorithmic collusion that can harm consumers through higher costs or reduced access to needed care and services. The full comment letter can be found [here](#).

Last Week's Recap Update. Here is the May 1, 2026 [Hospice Update](#).