

Hospice Weekly Recap

July 31, 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](#).

CMS Issues FY2027 Hospice Final Rule with 2.3% No Change to SSVI and Addendum Required. On July 30, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) [released](#) the fiscal year (FY) 2027 Hospice Wage Index Final Rule with very little deviation from the proposed rule. While CMS provides extensive comments on the hospice Service and Spending Variation Index (SSVI), they declined to make any changes to the proposed methodology and finalized the tool as proposed. Additionally, CMS finalized the requirement that hospices must provide an addendum for all hospice enrollments, not simply when the patient asks for an addendum. As we stated in our [comments](#), LeadingAge feels this requirement is unnecessary and duplicative and would increase administrative burden, confuse families, and divert resources away from direct care. CMS also finalized their proposal to add an icon to Care Compare for hospices who do not submit the required quality data. This additional transparency will help patients and families make more informed choices regarding their care. CMS' press statement is [here](#) and the link to the text of the rule is [here](#). LeadingAge's press statement can be found [here](#) and we will be providing more analysis in the coming days.

Announcing LeadingAge Clinical Procedure Manual, 23rd Edition! Newly updated in 2026, more than 300 clinical procedures to ensure high-quality and consistent care delivery. The LeadingAge Clinical Procedure Manual (CPM) is a must-have tool for providers committed to ensuring high quality care. Procedures are the backbone of clinical practice. Providers can use the CPM to ensure they are performed with reliable consistency by every clinician, every time. From activities of daily living to clinical tasks to safety and wound care, the manual covers a wide range of procedures that home and community-based and other providers deliver every day. Members receive a 30% discount. Read more about the manual including a list of procedures and a sample chapter [here](#).

Join the National Healthcare at Home Best Practices Study. LeadingAge is excited to announce the launch of the second National Healthcare at Home Best Practices Study led by HealthPivots. As a study sponsor, LeadingAge encourages home health and hospice agencies to participate in the study to ensure a strong showing of nonprofit, mission driven providers. This is a valuable opportunity to benchmark your agency's practices against peers nationally and gain insights that can help shape future strategy. We encourage you to sign up today to ensure your agency doesn't miss out on the results. For agencies who already signed up for the study, you should have received a survey link via email. Links and reminders are sent every Tuesday, so please check your inbox (and spam folder) if you haven't seen yours. Those who did not previously sign up can [Sign Up Here](#), and a survey link will be sent to you. The deadline to participate is September 15. Only participating agencies will receive the aggregate results from the study

Strengthening the Home Care Profession. A report from the LeadingAge LTSS Center @UMass Boston examines a three-year workforce initiative in Richmond, VA, that provided wage increases, training, and transportation support for home care aides. The evaluation found that aides valued these investments but continued to face challenges such as low wages and transportation barriers, and [offered recommendations to strengthen recruitment and retention in home care](#).

CHARTS Act Would Provide EHR Grants to Aging Services Providers: On July 22, Rep. Emanuel Cleaver (D-MO) introduced the Connecting and Advancing Technology for Health Records Systems (CHARTS) Act, legislation that would establish a two-year pilot grant program to support electronic health record (EHR) adoption and interoperability among nursing homes, home health agencies and other aging services providers. Under the bill, eligible providers could receive federal grants to implement, upgrade, or enhance EHR systems and improve their ability to exchange health information with other providers across the care continuum. The legislation would authorize \$5 million annually over the next two years, and individual grants to each provider could not exceed \$500,000. The legislation also directs the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to evaluate the pilot program and issue a recommendation on broader expansion if the program demonstrates improved care coordination, quality outcomes, and efficiency. The bill represents a positive first step towards addressing the exclusion of many aging services providers from earlier federal EHR incentive programs and is intended to strengthen interoperability between hospitals, physicians, home health agencies, nursing homes, and other providers. LeadingAge will continue to monitor the legislation as it moves through Congress.

KFF Releases RHTP Tracker. On July 27, KFF released a compendium of state-level information on the Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP). The RHTP was established in HR 1 and designates funding for the support and development of rural healthcare infrastructure. The tracker includes an interactive map and links to states' funding awards, applications, and approved plans and budgets. KFF indicates they will update the tracker as more information is available. The map and tracker are available [here](#).

Last Week's Recap Update. Here is the July 24, 2026 [Hospice Update](#).