

NMAHHC

NEW MEXICO ASSOCIATION
FOR HOME & HOSPICE CARE

Legislative
Health &
Human
Service
Committee

October 21, 2020

Who We Are

- Home Health Care
 - Skilled care given by health care professionals such as nurses, physical, occupational, and speech therapists
 - Other support services such as assistance with daily living from a qualified home health aide
 - The care must be ordered by a physician or (6/5/20) a non-physician provider
- Hospice
 - Addresses patient's physical, emotional, social, and spiritual needs
 - Helps the patient's family and caregivers
 - Concentrates on managing a patient's pain and other symptoms
- Personal Care Services
 - Assistance with some or all of activities of daily living
 - Purpose is to avoid institutionalization and/or to increase individual's ability to remain independent



Home: Safest & Patient Preferred Care Setting

- According to an AARP study, 90 percent of people age 65 and over would prefer to stay in their own homes as they get older — and not go to a nursing home or assisted living facility.
- According to New York Times, 40% of coronavirus deaths are linked to nursing homes nationwide.
- Same report indicated that 34% of coronavirus deaths are linked to nursing homes in New Mexico.
- As of 10/15/20 NMDOH reports that 42 long term care facilities in New Mexico have at least one positive case.



Early Impacts of COVID on In-Home Care

- 88.6% of home health agencies had a prospective patients refuse admission to home health care
- 95.5% of home health agencies had decreased revenue as a result of reduced referrals (elective surgery)
- 95.5 % of home health agencies increased costs related to personal protective equipment
- 99.3% of personal care service agencies had existing clients refuse some of their visits due to concerns of the risk of transmission of COVID-19



Hospice Access

- Since the beginning of the public health emergency hospice struggled to access clients in skilled nursing and assisted living facilities
 - Impact patients' access to their hospice benefit
 - September 18, 2020 New Mexico Department of Health clarified that home health/hospice care workers or aides are considered “essential”
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Telehealth

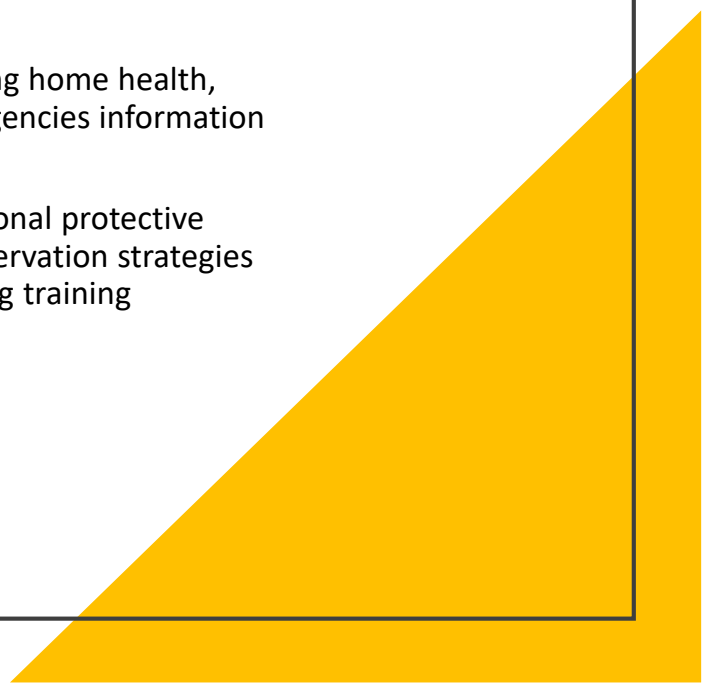
- Since the public health emergency began, CMS has added more than 135 services to the Medicare telehealth services list, including emergency department visits and initial inpatient visits.
- Prior to the emergency declaration in March, about 13,000 Medicare beneficiaries accessed telemedicine services during a typical week. That number jumped to more than 9 million beneficiaries having received a telehealth service between mid-March and mid-June.
- Home health & hospice cannot bill Medicare or Medicaid (New Mexico) for telehealth visits or for telemonitoring

Personal Protective Equipment

- From the beginning agencies have followed CDC guidelines which include screening workers and patients daily, reducing time spent with patients, increasing distance, and wearing protective coverings, including full droplet protection in cases of COVID suspected or positive cases.
- PPE, on average, cost each agency \$11.50 per visit and increased 30-day costs by over \$100 — approximately 5% of base payment rates, according to NAHC.



Highlights

- State of New Mexico provided PPE to supplement agencies' supplies early in the pandemic when supply chains were very tight.
 - Department of Health Division of Health Improvement weekly calls with agencies to share updates in policies, procedures and responded to provider questions in real time through designated COVID email
 - Strong collaboration and coordination among home health, hospice, & personal care service provider agencies information & resources sharing
 - Developed tools and training including personal protective equipment burn rate calculator, strong preservation strategies that are CDC compliant, and donning/doffing training
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Looking Ahead

- Home health and hospice needs to have a seat at the table for statewide conversations regarding vaccinations as we plan for vaccination distribution
- Increase in statewide minimum wage will impact Personal Care Service reimbursement
- Telehealth & remote patient monitoring reimbursement