

Questions for Stakeholder Meeting Hospice Agency Regulations

Application for Licensure

1. What criteria should hospice agencies be required to follow to prove there is an unmet need for services in a proposed geographic service area? Additionally, what type of supporting documentation or evidence should hospice agencies be required to submit to the Department to demonstrate an unmet need for services?

Numerical Limits and Standards

2. A 2020 study from the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization (NHPCO) found that the average number of patients cared for by a hospice each day is 67. Please describe how this compares to your agency's hospice patient count experience.
3. In your experience how many hours does an administrator devote on-site to managing a hospice?
4. Do hospice agencies categorize patients based on acuity levels? If so, is this categorization included in the patient's plan of care and used to assign nurse caseloads appropriately? Please explain.
5. What should the ratio of patients to home health aides be for a hospice agency? Please explain.
6. What documentation or policies and procedures do hospice agencies have in place for establishing a patient representative, if any?
7. What policies or procedures, if any, do hospice agencies follow when patients are transferred or discharged, including instances when the agency is no longer operational?

General Question

8. Do you have any further recommendations for the Department to consider when drafting hospice regulations?