



Valor Hospice News

New CMS Medicare Hospice Conditions of Participations Released

Valor HospiceCare & PalliativeCare's management and Governing Body has assembled to review the release of the final regulatory 2008 Conditions of Participations (CoPs) for hospice care services. The general consensus is that the new COPs are a significant improvement over the proposed 2005 CoPs and that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) paid close attention to the industry and responded in a very positive manner. As indicated by a National Hospice & Palliative Care Organization (NHPCO) regulatory committee member, "We found the new CoPs an amazing surprise, so responsive to our concerns and positive toward hospice. The new CoPs position hospice for a positive future..."

The current CoPs were initially released in 1982 when the Medicare Hospice Benefit was enacted by Congress. Relatively unchanged in the last 25 years, the new regulations bring better definitions of services, including enhanced patient rights clarifications, clinical assessments and outcomes, quality measurements, general inpatient and respite care requirements, staff background checks and professional staff initiatives for the interdisciplinary team.

Upon our opening in 2005, Valor has already implemented the majority of these enhancements into its clinical, operations and marketing programs. The final implementation will occur, as expected by our Valor CQI Coordinator, by December 2, 2008 to meet CMS compliance measures.

Valor Open Houses Held

While our work is in the patient's home, Valor showed off its new offices in Green Valley and Sierra Vista, Arizona. Over 100 attendees mingled with staff and volunteers and enjoyed music, food, refreshments and an art exhibition from local artists. Valor thanks the Sierra Vista Chamber of Commerce for its ribbon cutting ceremonies.



Green Valley office open house



Sierra Vista. Virginia Studer, Spiritual Care Provider, center, and Jimalee McGee, RN Case Manager, right

About Us

Valor HospiceCare & PalliativeCare provides compassionate, holistic care for patients with advanced chronic and terminal illness and support for their families and loved ones.

With a focus on exemplary service and a dedication to making the most of every day, join us as we commit to improving end-of-life care and expanding access to hospice and palliative care in the markets we serve. Valor is State Licensed, Medicare, TRICARE, AHCCCS Certified and affiliates with most commercial insurance plans. The teams currently serve Pima, southern Pinal, Santa Cruz and Cochise Counties, with offices in Tucson, Green Valley and Sierra Vista, Arizona. For further information, please contact us in Tucson at 520.615.3996, in Green Valley at 520.399.0200, in Sierra Vista at 520.458.9450 or toll-free at 877.615.3996. Web: www.valorhospicecare.com

Valor Hospice News is produced to provide the healthcare community and general public with industry information about hospice and palliative care programs and services.

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Staff Highlights

Fonda DeLoache, RN, has joined Valor as our Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) & Education Coordinator. Fonda brings over 20 years of case management, supervisory and compliance skills to assist with the oversight of the Valor CQI compliance Program. Based in Tucson, Fonda will also lead the CQI program efforts for locations in Green Valley and Sierra Vista, Arizona.

Diane Marie Landsinger, SPHR, has been appointed Human Resources (HR) Coordinator and will be responsible for the company's human capital management initiatives. Diane Marie brings extensive experience to our team in the areas of recruiting, hiring, employee retention, diversity training and competency-based performance enhancements. Ms. Landsinger will also oversee human resources initiatives for Tucson, Green Valley and Sierra Vista, Arizona.

New CMS Reporting Requirements Implemented

Effective July 1, 2008, CMS is requiring all hospices to include additional patient billing information to analyze the number of patient visits by skilled nursing, certified nurse assistants, medical social workers and physicians. Areas also include patient living location delineations. Valor has implemented these requirements and welcomes working with fiscal intermediaries to enhance the quality of hospice services.