

HOSPICE RELATEDNESS: YES, NO, MAYBE



DESCRIPTION:

Under Medicare regulations, hospice providers are responsible for services and items related to a patient's terminal and related diagnoses. But determining the relatedness of illnesses and conditions to the primary diagnosis can be challenging. In this course, Dr. Jennifer Kennedy will address federal regulatory requirements for determining relatedness and the associated compliance considerations.

PROGRAM DETAILS:

This presentation features experienced professionals offering their own expertise on the topic. On the screen, you will see the slide presentation and will be able to hear the experts talking and presenting. If you login for the live version of the program, you'll also have the opportunity to email or text the experts' questions that they will discuss and answer during the program's Question & Answer session.

LIVE DATE:	February 19, 2026
TIME:	Noon to 1:30pm ET
ON DEMAND:	Available for 6 months; until August 19, 2026
LENGTH:	60 minutes
CEs:	1 hour
CONTENT LEVEL:	The program is mainly for professionals already working in the field but is practical for all levels of education – entry level, intermediate or advanced.
TARGET AUDIENCE:	Health care clinicians, social service clinicians and others working in the hospice, palliative care, counseling, hospital, nursing home, funeral home, or faith community environments

This program will be live on the air date, recorded and made available for on demand viewing. The recorded program will be available approximately a day after the live event.

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

To view the program, you will need a computer and screen, reliable internet access, and speakers.

TEST LINK for live program Audio and Video: <https://zoom.us/test>
Technical Questions? Please go to <https://zoom.us/> and click "support"

PROGRAM FEES/REGISTRATION:

Registration includes continuing education and on-demand viewing for 6 months from live date. Register directly online at: <https://www.hospicefoundation.org>

Registration Options

- Individual: Live and on-demand viewing for one person.
- Organization/company: Unlimited viewing for employees within a single location.

ADVANCE PURCHASE

- Individual Viewer — Member: FREE | Non-member: \$25.95
- Organizational Viewing — Member: FREE for up to 25 staff

- Organizational Viewing — Non-member: 2-12 staff – \$79.95 | 13-25 staff – \$135

SAME DAY PURCHASE

- Individual Viewer — Member: FREE | Non-member: \$35.95
- Organizational Viewing — Member: FREE for up to 25 staff
- Organizational Viewing — Non-member: 2-12 staff – \$89.95 | 13-25 staff – \$160

ON-DEMAND PURCHASE

- Individual Viewer — Member: \$23.97 | Non-member: \$35.95
- Organizational Viewing — Member: 1-12 staff – \$53.97 | 13-25 staff – \$96
- Organizational Viewing — Non-member: 2-12 staff – \$89.95 | 13-25 staff – \$160

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

At the conclusion of this program, participants will be able to:

1. Discuss current regulatory federal requirements and guidance about relatedness in hospice care.
2. Describe the process of relatedness decisions.
3. Define considerations about relatedness compliance.

PROGRAM OUTLINE:

1. Discuss current federal regulatory requirements and guidance about relatedness in hospice care (20 minutes)
 - a. Requirements at:
 - i. § 418.24 Election of hospice care.
 - ii. § 418.25 Admission to hospice care.
 - iii. § 418.52 Condition of participation: Patient's rights
 - iv. § 418.54 Condition of participation: Initial and comprehensive assessment of the patient.
 - v. § 418.100 Condition of Participation: Organization and administration of services.
 - vi. § 418.102 Condition of participation: Medical director.
 - vii. § 418.106 Condition of participation: Drugs and biologicals, medical supplies, and durable medical equipment.
 - viii. § 418.112 Condition of participation: Hospices that provide hospice care to residents of a SNF/NF or ICF/IID.
 - ix. § 418.200 Requirements for coverage.
 - x. § 418.202 Covered services.
2. Describe the process of relatedness decisions (20 minutes)
 - a. Describe physician-led, comprehensive assessment of a patient's terminal illness (prognosis ≤ 6 months) and *all* contributing diagnoses, assessing functional decline (ADLs, PPS scores), worsening symptoms (pain, breathlessness), and increased hospitalizations, documenting how these conditions impact the patient's overall decline to ensure care focuses on comfort, not cure, with relatedness being a continuous, individualized evaluation.
 - b. Explain process via 2020 NHPCO process map for determining relatedness
3. Define considerations about relatedness compliance (10 minutes)
 - a. Explain most current CMS data about spending outside of the Medicare Hospice Benefit
 - b. Examine possible compliance outcomes as a result of non-compliance with providing and covering everything that is related to a patient's terminal and related diagnoses

4. Questions/answers (10 minutes)

CONTINUING EDUCATION (CE) CREDITS:

This program is valid for 1 continuing education contact hour. CE hours are available for 6 months, until August 19, 2025.

A complete list of board approvals for this program is posted to HFA's website at www.hospicefoundation.org on the program's registration page.

COURSE COMPLETION REQUIREMENTS:

Participants must attend the entire 1 hour program. Partial credit is not awarded. Participants must also complete the entire CE process online which includes a required evaluation form and exam. The exam must be completed at 80% or above (the exam may be re-taken, if necessary).

EXPERT PANELISTS:

Jennifer Kennedy, EdD, MA, BSN, RN, CHC

Dr. Jennifer Kennedy is the vice president for quality and standards at Community Health Accreditation Partner (CHAP) and is a nationally recognized hospice expert. She has more than 35 years of experience as a leader and nurse in diverse healthcare settings and has worked in hospice and palliative care for the last 20+ years. She has a bachelor's degree in nursing, has a dual master's degree in health education and case management, has a doctoral degree in healthcare education and policy, and is a certified healthcare compliance professional. Jennifer is the lead for the CHAP quality and compliance team and interacts with Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and their contractors regarding hospice regulatory and quality issues for hospice, home health, home infusion, pharmacy, and durable medical equipment. She collaborates with the CHAP Center for Excellence, an education content developer, and also serves as faculty. She is a member of the American Nurses Association's (ANA) national palliative nursing task group and has been honored by the UK's St Christopher's Hospice as a nursing pioneer for their 2020 Palliative Care Nursing Project. Jennifer hosts CHAP's monthly podcast, speaks at national and state events, and teaches graduate healthcare administration courses.

REVIEWER:

Angela Novas, MSN, RN, CRNP, ACHPN, *Senior Medical Officer*, Hospice Foundation of America

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Reasonable accommodation may be made available, on an individual basis. To request accommodation, please contact HFA via email at educate@hospicefoundation.org or call 800-854-3402, or write to HFA, 1707 L Street NW, Suite 220, Washington, DC 20036.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST:

Planners (Panelists and Review Committee Members) disclose no conflict of interest relative to this educational activity. None of the planners or presenters for this educational activity have relevant financial relationships to disclose with ineligible companies.

FOR QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, OR ADDRESSING GRIEVANCES

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