

Hospice Foundation of America's Program

HOSPICE RELATEDNESS: YES, NO, MAYBE

Online CE Course

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

The online presentation features an experienced professional offering their own expertise on the topic. On the screen, you will see the slide presentation and will be able to see and hear the expert presenters.

RELEASE DATE:	Program originally premiered February 19, 2026
ON DEMAND:	Viewing available to registered individuals for 6 months after purchase.
LENGTH:	60 minutes
CE HOURS:	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:	The course is useful to Health care clinicians, social service clinicians and others working in the hospice, palliative care, counseling, hospital, nursing home, funeral home or faith community environments

HOW THE ONLINE COURSE WORKS

Step 1 - Register/purchase the course

Step 2 - View the course online through the link in your confirmation email or in your account.

Step 3 – Complete the online exam and evaluation

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

A computer and reliable internet connection. Mobile service provider charges may apply.

REGISTRATION AND COURSE MATERIALS

Register directly online, on HFA's website: www.hospicefoundation.org.

There are no refunds on registration. *Few exceptions may occur depending on the circumstance. To request a refund, a written request must be received (and granted) by HFA.

Course materials include the online program video, slides, and viewer guide. All course materials are accessible online immediately after registering.

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

This program is valid for 1 contact hour of continuing education. View the current list of board approvals on HFA's website at www.hospicefoundation.org, located on the program's registration page.

COURSE COMPLETION REQUIREMENTS:

Participants must view the entire 60-minute program (online-streaming video). Partial credit is not awarded. Participants must also complete the entire CE process online before a certificate is awarded. The online CE process 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 SPEAKERS

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, *Senior Medical Officer*, Hospice Foundation of America

BIBLIOGRAPHY/REFERENCES:

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SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS FOR DISABILITY (ADA)

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 Reviewers) disclose no conflict of interest relative to this educational activity.

FOR QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, OR ADDRESSING GRIEVANCES, please contact:

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