

necessary for the palliation and management of the terminal illness and related conditions, including the following:

(1) Interventions to manage pain and symptoms.

(2) A detailed statement of the scope and frequency of services necessary to meet the specific patient and family needs.

(3) Measurable outcomes anticipated from implementing and coordinating the plan of care.

(4) Drugs and treatment necessary to meet the needs of the patient.

(5) Medical supplies and appliances necessary to meet the needs of the patient.

(6) The interdisciplinary group's documentation of the patient's or representative's level of understanding, involvement, and agreement with the plan of care, in accordance with the hospice's own policies, in the clinical record.

(d) *Standard: Review of the plan of care.* The hospice interdisciplinary group (in collaboration with the individual's attending physician, if any) must review, revise and document the individualized plan as frequently as the patient's condition requires, but no less frequently than every 15 calendar days. A revised plan of care must include information from the patient's updated comprehensive assessment and must note the patient's progress toward outcomes and goals specified in the plan of care.

(e) *Standard: Coordination of services.* The hospice must develop and maintain a system of communication and integration, in accordance with the hospice's own policies and procedures, to—

(1) Ensure that the interdisciplinary group maintains responsibility for directing, coordinating, and supervising the care and services provided.

(2) Ensure that the care and services are provided in accordance with the plan of care.

(3) Ensure that the care and services provided are based on all assessments of the patient and family needs.

(4) Provide for and ensure the ongoing sharing of information between all disciplines providing care and services in all settings, whether the care and

services are provided directly or under arrangement.

(5) Provide for an ongoing sharing of information with other non-hospice healthcare providers furnishing services unrelated to the terminal illness and related conditions.

[73 FR 32204, June 5, 2008, as amended at 88 FR 79539, Nov. 16, 2023]

§ 418.58 Condition of participation: Quality assessment and performance improvement.

The hospice must develop, implement, and maintain an effective, ongoing, hospice-wide data-driven quality assessment and performance improvement program. The hospice's governing body must ensure that the program: Reflects the complexity of its organization and services; involves all hospice services (including those services furnished under contract or arrangement); focuses on indicators related to improved palliative outcomes; and takes actions to demonstrate improvement in hospice performance. The hospice must maintain documentary evidence of its quality assessment and performance improvement program and be able to demonstrate its operation to CMS.

(a) *Standard: Program scope.* (1) The program must at least be capable of showing measurable improvement in indicators related to improved palliative outcomes and hospice services.

(2) The hospice must measure, analyze, and track quality indicators, including adverse patient events, and other aspects of performance that enable the hospice to assess processes of care, hospice services, and operations.

(b) *Standard: Program data.* (1) The program must use quality indicator data, including patient care, and other relevant data, in the design of its program.

(2) The hospice must use the data collected to do the following:

(i) Monitor the effectiveness and safety of services and quality of care.

(ii) Identify opportunities and priorities for improvement.

(3) The frequency and detail of the data collection must be approved by the hospice's governing body.

(c) *Standard: Program activities.* (1) The hospice's performance improvement activities must:

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(i) Focus on high risk, high volume, or problem-prone areas.

(ii) Consider incidence, prevalence, and severity of problems in those areas.

(iii) Affect palliative outcomes, patient safety, and quality of care.

(2) Performance improvement activities must track adverse patient events, analyze their causes, and implement preventive actions and mechanisms that include feedback and learning throughout the hospice.

(3) The hospice must take actions aimed at performance improvement and, after implementing those actions, the hospice must measure its success and track performance to ensure that improvements are sustained.

(d) *Standard: Performance improvement projects.* Beginning February 2, 2009 hospices must develop, implement, and evaluate performance improvement projects.

(1) The number and scope of distinct performance improvement projects conducted annually, based on the needs of the hospice's population and internal organizational needs, must reflect the scope, complexity, and past performance of the hospice's services and operations.

(2) The hospice must document what performance improvement projects are being conducted, the reasons for conducting these projects, and the measurable progress achieved on these projects.

(e) *Standard: Executive responsibilities.* The hospice's governing body is responsible for ensuring the following:

(1) That an ongoing program for quality improvement and patient safety is defined, implemented, and maintained, and is evaluated annually.

(2) That the hospice-wide quality assessment and performance improvement efforts address priorities for improved quality of care and patient safety, and that all improvement actions are evaluated for effectiveness.

(3) That one or more individual(s) who are responsible for operating the quality assessment and performance improvement program are designated.

§ 418.60 Condition of participation: Infection control.

The hospice must maintain and document an effective infection control program that protects patients, families, visitors, and hospice personnel by preventing and controlling infections and communicable diseases.

(a) *Standard: Prevention.* The hospice must follow accepted standards of practice to prevent the transmission of infections and communicable diseases, including the use of standard precautions.

(b) *Standard: Control.* The hospice must maintain a coordinated agency-wide program for the surveillance, identification, prevention, control, and investigation of infectious and communicable diseases that—

(1) Is an integral part of the hospice's quality assessment and performance improvement program; and

(2) Includes the following:

(i) A method of identifying infectious and communicable disease problems; and

(ii) A plan for implementing the appropriate actions that are expected to result in improvement and disease prevention.

(c) *Standard: Education.* The hospice must provide infection control education to employees, contracted providers, patients, and family members and other caregivers.

[73 FR 32204, June 5, 2008, as amended at 86 FR 61616, Nov. 5, 2021; 88 FR 36510, June 5, 2023]

§ 418.62 Condition of participation: Licensed professional services.

(a) Licensed professional services provided directly or under arrangement must be authorized, delivered, and supervised only by health care professionals who meet the appropriate qualifications specified under § 418.114 and who practice under the hospice's policies and procedures.

(b) Licensed professionals must actively participate in the coordination of all aspects of the patient's hospice care, in accordance with current professional standards and practice, including participating in ongoing interdisciplinary comprehensive assessments, developing and evaluating the