

HPNA 2025 Policy Priorities

The Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association (HPNA) is a national non-profit organization of nursing professionals serving their communities in the specialty of hospice and palliative nursing across the lifespan. Established in 1986, HPNA is the only nursing organization of its kind. HPNA's mission is to advance nursing expertise in hospice and palliative care through education, advocacy, leadership, and research. HPNA's vision is for every person living with serious illness to receive equitable, comprehensive, and innovative hospice and palliative nursing care.

HPNA's members are committed to providing the highest level of treatment and dignity to their patients and families, including at the end of life. HPNA strongly supports policy that strengthens oversight while also ensuring nurses can practice to the full extent of their training to improve patient care and alleviate strain on the health care workforce.

HPNA serves on the Board of the National Coalition for Hospice and Palliative Care and is a member of several national coalitions, including the Patient Quality of Life Coalition and the Nursing Community Coalition.

Ensuring, Supporting, and Protecting the Nursing Workforce

Providing Safe, Supportive Work Environments for Nurses: Identify and implement measures to provide sufficient staffing levels and reduce workplace violence.

Eliminating Practice Barriers in Medicare and Medicaid: Allow advanced practice providers to practice at the top of their licensure and training and certify for hospice care through the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

Addressing Health Care Workforce Burnout: Reauthorize the Lorna Breen Act, which funds evidence-informed strategies at hospitals and health care institutions aimed at reducing and preventing suicide, burnout, mental health conditions, and substance use disorders across the health care workforce.

Improving Patient Access to Comprehensive, High-Quality, and Cost-Effective Hospice and Palliative Care

Telehealth Flexibilities: Extend or make permanent waiver flexibilities, including the ability to conduct the face-to-face hospice visit via telehealth, that allow providers to extend care via telehealth to those with access issues, including in rural areas.

Support Training in Palliative Care Throughout the Health Care Workforce: Advance the Palliative Care and Hospice Education and Training Act (PCHETA), which would support palliative care training and research and raise public awareness of palliative care.

Maintaining Access to Prescription Medications: Support balanced policies that address prescription drug abuse but protect the ability of palliative care providers to administer opioid analgesics to provide timely, effective management of the symptoms of serious illness.

Concurrent Palliative and Hospice Care for Terminally Ill Children: Continued support and implementation of the “Concurrent Care for Children” Medicaid requirement.

Enhancing Hospice Program Integrity: Ensuring the quality of care hospice patients receive through appropriate oversight of hospice organizations and program integrity measures that promote high-quality hospice care.

Supporting Research on Palliative Care, Advanced Nursing Education, and Workforce Development

Allocating Resources for Advanced Nursing Education, Workforce Development, and Research Programs: Support Title VIII programs and the National Institutes for Nursing Research (NINR), which promote nursing education and retention, and research aimed at improving quality of care.

Continued Support for Palliative Care Research: Allocating funds for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and National Institute on Aging (NIA) for the Consortium for Palliative Care Research Across the Lifespan and other programs aimed at advancing research on expanding access to palliative care and measuring outcomes.

For more information on HPNA’s policy and advocacy initiatives, please contact Sarah Potter, HPNA Manager of Advocacy and Health Policy, at sarahp@hpna.org.