



Center for Clinical Standards and Quality

Ref: QSO-26-11-HHA & Hospice

DATE: May 20, 2026

TO: State Survey Agency Directors

FROM: Directors, Quality, Safety & Oversight Group (QSOG) and Survey & Operations Group (SOG)

SUBJECT: Six-Month National Moratoria on Hospice and Home Health Agency (HHA) Enrollment

Memorandum Summary

- **Six-Month Moratoria** – On May 13, 2026, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced a national moratorium on Hospice and Home Health Agency (HHA) enrollment for the next six months. Effective May 13, 2026, CMS will halt the enrollment of new Hospice and HHA providers or HHA branch or practice locations.
- **Length of Moratorium** - The moratorium will be in place for six months and can be extended for additional six-month periods, if necessary. Federal regulations allow CMS to lift the moratorium, as warranted, or in response to a Presidential disaster declaration under the Robert T Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act. Any action to lift or extend the moratoria will be publicly announced in the Federal Register.
- **Hospice or HHA Application Status** – Prospective Hospice or HHA Medicare enrollment applications that were received by the applicable Medicare contractors **prior to** May 13, 2026, will continue to be processed.
- **Exceptions**- CMS regulations do not permit exceptions to a moratorium for individual providers or suppliers.

Background:

On May 15, 2026, CMS published a *Federal Register* Notices announcing a temporary enrollment moratoria for Hospice and HHAs under the Affordable Care Act (ACA) authority to combat fraud, waste and abuse in the Medicare, Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).

The moratorium impacts all initial Hospice and HHA Medicare enrollment applications that were not received by the applicable Medicare contractor prior to May 13, 2026.

Initial enrollment applications submitted during the moratoria will be denied and the application will need to be resubmitted once the moratoria are lifted. Existing Medicare-certified Hospice and HHAs should continue to comply with all changes of information and revalidation reporting requirements. The moratoria only impact new enrollments and not ongoing compliance obligations.

Sections 6401(a-c) of the ACA added new sections 1866(j)(7), 1902 (kk)(4) and 2107 (e)(1) to the Social Security Act providing the Secretary with the authority to impose such a moratorium. Before taking this action, CMS consulted with federal law enforcement officials and determined that there was a high risk of fraud, waste and abuse in these programs.

CMS has determined that the moratoria will not affect access to care for beneficiaries receiving hospice or home health care. However, CMS will monitor these moratoria for any access issues – including in rural areas -- that arise.

Appeals

A provider or supplier that is impacted by a moratorium may use the existing appeal procedures at 42 CFR part 498 to administratively appeal a denial of billing privileges based on the imposition of a temporary moratorium. The scope of any such appeal, though, would be limited solely to assessing whether the temporary moratorium applies to the provider or supplier appealing the denial (see 42 CFR 498.5(l)(4)).

Accreditation

During the moratorium, a prospective Hospice or HHA's accreditation by a CMS approved Accrediting Organization (AO) program will not serve as the basis for Medicare participation through deemed status. In such cases a new provider agreement will not be approved, nor will a new branch or practice location for an existing deemed HHA be approved.

Contact

For questions specific to the moratoria, please email providerenrollment@cms.hhs.gov. State Survey Agencies are encouraged to contact their CMS location for any questions. Accrediting Organizations should submit their questions to: AO_Applications@cms.hhs.gov.

For additional information, please see below:

CMS.gov updates –

<https://www.cms.gov/medicare/enrollment-renewal/providers-suppliers/chain-ownership-system-pecos/provider-enrollment-moratoria>

Moratoria FAQs –

<https://www.cms.gov/files/document/hh-hospice-moratorium-faqs.pdf>

Press release –

<https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/press-releases/cms-announces-aggressive-nationwide-crackdown-fraud-six-month-hospice-home-health-agency-enrollment>

Federal Register Notices:

<https://www.federalregister.gov/public-inspection/2026-09717/medicare-medicaid-and-childrens-health-insurance-programs-announcement-of-nationwide-temporary> and
<https://www.federalregister.gov/public-inspection/2026-09718/medicare-medicaid-and-childrens-health-insurance-programs-announcement-of-nationwide-temporary>.

Effective Date: May 13, 2026. Please communicate to all appropriate staff within 30 days.

/s/

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Resources to Improve Quality of Care:

Check out CMS's new Quality in Focus interactive video series. The series of 10–15 minute videos are tailored to provider types and aim to reduce the deficiencies most commonly cited during the CMS survey process, like infection control and accident prevention. Reducing these common deficiencies increases the quality of care for people with Medicare and Medicaid.

Learn to:

- *Understand surveyor evaluation criteria*
- *Recognize deficiencies*
- *Incorporate solutions into your facility's standards of care*

See the [Quality, Safety, & Education Portal Training Catalog](#), and select *Quality in Focus*

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