

2015 Public Policy Priorities

The American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine engages in public policy advocacy to advance the field, promote the interests of palliative care and hospice patients, and support the health professionals that care for them. The needs of patients and their families throughout the care continuum guide AAHPM's policy agenda. The following priorities are intended to help direct the Academy's efforts and resources, including collaboration with outside entities.

A just, effective and efficient system of health care requires palliative care as a key component. In order to achieve this aim, the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine will focus its advocacy efforts on:

developing an adequate, well-trained, sustainable hospice and palliative care workforce to ensure access to consistent, high-quality care for the expanding population of patients with multiple chronic conditions or life-limiting or serious illness, as well as their families.

preserving and expanding timely access to hospice and palliative care in all clinical settings and emerging payment models, including seeking adequate reimbursement for clinician time spent delivering high-value services aligned with patient and family goals, such as advance care planning and comprehensive, coordinated care.

increasing funding for hospice and palliative care research to strengthen clinical practice and improve health care delivery for patients living with multiple chronic conditions or life-threatening or serious illness, as well as their families.

ensuring timely and effective access to prescription medications for patients with medically appropriate indications, including collaborating with professional, regulatory and industry stakeholders to reduce the frequency and adverse impact of national drug shortages and maximize individual and public safety.

advancing palliative care in national quality measurement and performance improvement strategies to ensure a focus on high-value patient- and family-centered outcomes across the continuum of care; promoting recognition that care coordination and interdisciplinary teams are essential for improving care; and advocating for involvement of patients and their families in the design, delivery, and evaluation of care.

-Approved by the Board of Directors February 25, 2015

