

## Eli's Hospice Insider

### Assessment: You Can Still Sign Up To Test HOPE Tool

**'Alpha' testing will begin in the spring.**

Hospices interested in testing out the new HOPE assessment tool haven't missed their chance yet. Hospice Outcomes & Patient Evaluation contractor **Abt Associates** has extended the application period to "alpha test" the tool to Feb. 21.

"We will notify each applicant on or about 3/5/2020 whether they have or have not been selected to participate in the HOPE alpha test," Abt says in a message to providers. Testing is scheduled to occur in the spring.

Plus: The report from the Technical Expert Panel meeting in November on the Hospice Outcomes & Patient Evaluation tool should be published in "the next few months," a **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services** official said in the agency's Jan. 8 Open Door Forum for home care and hospice providers.

You can consult two HOPE education tools posted in December, a one-page "fundamentals" sheet and a three-page Frequently Asked Question Sheet, at [www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/Hospice-Quality-Reporting/HOPE](http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/Hospice-Quality-Reporting/HOPE) - scroll down to the "Downloads" section.