

## Eli's Hospice Insider

### Compliance: Medicare Offers Guidance On Screening Patients For COVID-19

**Check these 4 factors.**

Medicare is offering a helping hand on how to figure out who to treat as a suspected COVID-19 case.

Hospice agencies can use these four factors to "identify volunteers, visitors, and patients at risk for having COVID-19 infection," the **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services** offers:

1. International travel within the last 14 days to countries with sustained community transmission. For updated information on affected countries visit: [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html).
2. Signs or symptoms of a respiratory infection, such as a fever, cough, and sore throat.
3. In the last 14 days, has had contact with someone with or under investigation for COVID-19, or are ill with respiratory illness.
4. Residing in a community where community-based spread of COVID-19 is occurring.

**Timing is crucial:** Agencies should ask about these factors "before or immediately upon arrival," CMS offers.