

Eli's Hospice Insider

Education: Smooth Out Your FFE Transition With These 6 Sites

CMS, NAHC, and others offer free guidance for cash- and time-strapped agencies.

You don't have to figure out the face to face encounter requirement alone. The new April 1 deadline will be here before you know it, so lean on these free resources to help you come into compliance before your time is up:

1. The **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services** has issued a new MLN Matters article reviewing the requirement at www.cms.gov/MLN MattersArticles/downloads/SE1038.pdf.
2. CMS also posted a new FFE frequently asked question list for HHAs. A link to the FAQs is on CMS's HHA page at www.cms.gov/center/hha.asp -- scroll down under "Spotlights" to the Dec. 22 post.
3. The **National Association for Home Care & Hospice** is offering numerous helpful documents about the FFE requirement for HHAs and hospices, including FAQs and 10 model letters and tools, at www.nahc.org/regulatory/home.html -- scroll down to the FFE sections.
4. The **National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization** has posted a list of FAQs at www.nhpco.org/files/public/regulatory/FAQs_Face-to-Face_v2.pdf.
5. Read the regulatory language itself in the PPS final rule for 2011, published in the Nov. 17 Federal Register. The FFE section starts on p. 57 of the pdf file at <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2010/pdf/2010-27778.pdf>.
6. The Home Care Association for New Jersey is offering a number of FFE tools including a FFE documentation guide for physicians at www.homecarenj.org/public/HealthCareEncounterTools.html.