

Eli's Hospice Insider

Hospice News: CMS Shirks Fraud-Fighting Duties, Providers Gripe

Medicare needs to do more to boot fraudsters out of the system, attendees of the **National Association for Home Care & Hospice's** March on Washington conference told a top **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services** official.

CMS isn't using its data resources to target hospices who are flouting the rules for financial gain, one attendee told CMS Deputy Administrator **Sean Cavanaugh** in an April 4 session.

CMS seems to not use information it gathers in the survey process to target potential bad actors, another attendee said in a separate session.

Medicare isn't doing its part "to help the industry get rid of ... the bad apples," another attendee told Cavanaugh. For example, CMS has yet to instruct its contractors to put hospice providers with long lengths of stay under medical review as spelled out in the Affordable Care Act.

Program integrity activities are "important," Cavanaugh assured listeners. But he urged the "good guys" in the industry to think more about the overall direction the hospice benefit should move in the future.