



## Hospice & Palliative Care Association of NYS

24 Computer Drive W., Suite 104

Albany, NY 12205

Ph: 518-446-1483 ■ Fax: 518-446-1484

[www.hpcanys.org](http://www.hpcanys.org)

### HPCANYS Issue Brief

## Medicaid Managed Long-Term Care and Hospice

February 5, 2019

In 2012, the state changed policy so that individuals enrolled in Medicaid Managed Long Term Care (“MLTCP”) no longer had to disenroll from MLTCP in order to access their hospice benefit. This change allowed for individuals with a terminal prognosis to continue to receive the important services offered by the MLTCP while adding specialized end-of-life care offered by hospice. Unfortunately, patients enrolled in hospice cannot access services of MLTCP without first dis-enrolling from hospice. The MLTCP enrollment process requires the completion of a ‘conflict free assessment’. This process, depending on where you are in the state, will take anywhere from 1 day to 6 weeks. During this time, patients are left without hospice care or MLTCP services.

Anecdotal information indicates that these patients who disenroll from hospice care in order to access the additional services offered under the MLTCP are likely to require a higher level of care during this waiting period - emergency departments visits and even hospitalizations. If a patient is admitted to the hospital from the emergency room, they might be referred to hospice and transferred to a hospice inpatient bed for treatment of their uncontrolled symptoms. But, when the patient is ready for discharge back home, they are no longer eligible to for admission to an MLTCP unless they first revoke their hospice benefit. Even worse, the patient may die while waiting to be admitted to a MLTCP and before a referral to hospice is made.

This current process penalizes individuals who are eligible for both MLTCP and hospice simply because they chose hospice first.

#### OUR ASK:

We request that the state remove this barrier and allow individuals eligible for MLTCP who enroll in hospice first to be able to enroll in MLTCP without dis-enrolling from hospice.

For more information, please contact:

Carla Braveman HPCANYS <a href="mailto:cbraveman@hpcanys.org">cbraveman@hpcanys.org</a> 518-446-1483	JoAnn Smith Rivera Law <a href="mailto:jsmith@rivera.legal">jsmith@rivera.legal</a> (518) 533-2884	Sandra Rivera, Esq. Rivera Law <a href="mailto:srivera@rivera.legal">srivera@rivera.legal</a> (518) 533-2884
---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------