

## Recruitment Announcement

### Focus Group for Hospice Patient Assessment Instrument

Abt Associates is currently recruiting experienced hospice providers and clinicians to participate in focus groups to discuss and provide input as we develop a hospice patient assessment instrument.

#### **Background:**

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has contracted with Abt Associates to engage diverse stakeholders to inform the design of a hospice patient assessment instrument. This new hospice instrument will apply a patient-centered approach that supports patient choice and incorporates the full hospice team. At a minimum, the data from the assessment instrument will be used for care-planning and outcome quality measures. Therefore, your participation in the focus groups is an integral part of the new assessment instrument development. The feedback from these groups will inform our recommendations as part of the steps to prepare for alpha testing of the hospice patient assessment instrument in CY 2020.

#### **Focus Group:**

We will hold eight focus groups with up to 12 individuals in each session during the summer of 2019. We are seeking providers and clinical staff with experience with the Hospice Quality Reporting Program or collecting patient level data from a broad range of hospice providers, such as size, type, urban, rural, or service area. All interested participants will be considered based on their hospice role, knowledge, and experience with the Hospice Quality Reporting Program or completing patient assessments, and hospice organization type to ensure a nationally balanced representation of diverse hospices.

The focus group discussions will focus on four primary themes:

1. Obtain input on specific assessment items in regard to approach, definitions, and terminology.
2. Discuss the key assessment concepts that promote and capture quality hospice care and prioritize them;
3. Obtain feedback on the proposed assessment types and the corresponding timing with hospice workflows; and,
4. Review and validate a series of symptom assessment items for actively /imminently dying patients to allow for appropriate skip patterns.

#### **Focus Group Timing and How to Apply:**

- Planned Focus Group dates are August 8, 12, 13, 14, 27, 29; September 5 or 10, 2019. If you are selected, please commit to actively participating in a 90 minute, one-time, virtual/online focus group (via webinar).
- Complete the Focus Group Application for consideration.

**Those interested in participating, please [CLICK HERE to complete the Focus Group Application](#). Applications must be received by August 26, 2019.**

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The instrument development work is under CMS contract number 75FCMC18D0014, and the task order number is 75FCMC19F0001.

If you have general questions about the focus groups and would like to contact CMS, please email Cindy Massuda, CMS' Hospice Quality Reporting Program Coordinator, at [Cindy.Massuda@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Cindy.Massuda@cms.hhs.gov)