BETTER MEDICARE ALLIANCE

# Mini Summit 16: Palliative Care and Hospice.

## Policy and Politics of a Potential MA Carve-In of Hospice

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# Who We Are -- NPHI

The National Partnership for Hospice Innovation (NPHI) is a convener of like-minded patient, family and community focused programs driven by passion and integrity to help people live fully through end-of-life.

Our vision is that during the last stages of life, every American can choose exceptional care that matches their goals, values, and wishes.

Our mission is to lead the movement of hospice, palliative, and advanced illness care through innovation and collaboration, which is achieved through our not-for-profit, mission-driven providers across the United States, delivering person, family and community-focused care.

NPHI National Partnership for Hospice Innovation

ADVOCATING EXCELLENCE IN ADVANCED ILLNESS, HOSPICE, AND PALLIATIVE CARE

# Who We Are -- NHPCO

Founded in 1978 and is the largest nonprofit membership organization representing hospice and palliative care programs and professionals in the United States.

**Mission** To lead and mobilize social change for improved care at the end of life.

**Vision** A world where individuals and families facing serious illness, death, and grief will experience the best that humankind can offer.

National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization

# Medicare Hospice Benefit (Title 42 Part 418)

- Patient must have a terminal prognosis with a life expectancy of 6 months or less if the illness runs it normal course.
- Patient must forgo curative treatment (i.e. waive Part A and B coverage)
- The model for holistic and comprehensive care. The care that hospice interdisciplinary teams provide extends beyond the patient to the family to ensure the very best end-of-life experience possible.
- Each patient's team (includes doctors, nurses, home health aides, social workers, chaplains, therapists, and trained volunteers) provides comprehensive care coordination including symptom and pain management, medication management, personal care, care planning, spiritual care, patient and family support, volunteers, and grief counseling.

# Palliative Care Title 42 Part 418.3 Definition

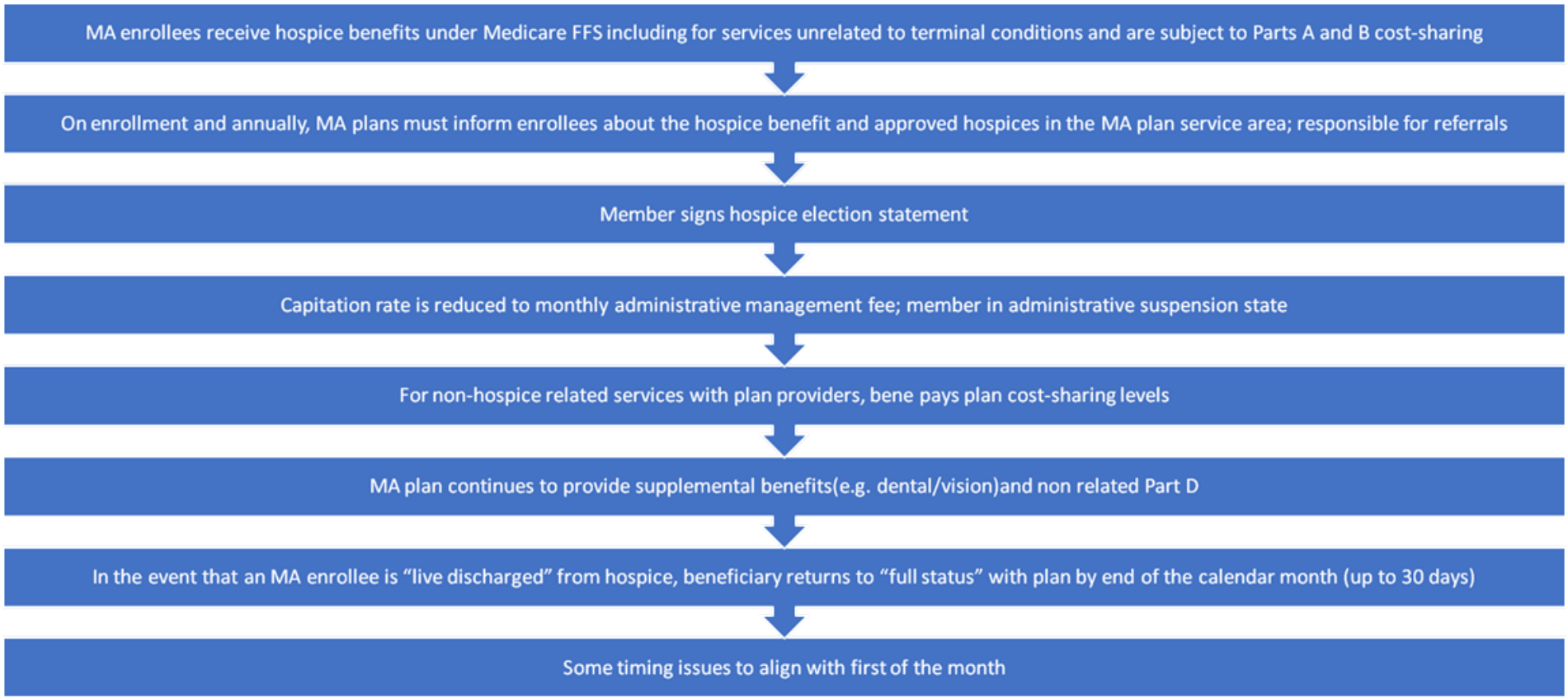
Patient and family-centered care that optimizes quality of life by anticipating, preventing, and treating suffering. Palliative care throughout the continuum of illness involves addressing physical, intellectual, emotional, social, and spiritual needs and to facilitate patient autonomy, access to information, and choice.

# Other Palliative Care Definitions

- World Health Organization (http://www.who.int/cancer/palliative/definition/en/)
- National Cancer Institute (https://www.cancer.gov/about-cancer/advanced-cancer/care-choices/palliative-care-fact-sheet)
- Center to Advanced Palliative Care (https://www.capc.org/about/palliative-care/)

- Other definitions are out there, but generally adopt a similar philosophy of care for those with advanced or serious illness

# Transition between Hospice and MA Today



# Rationale and Some Considerations for a Carve-in

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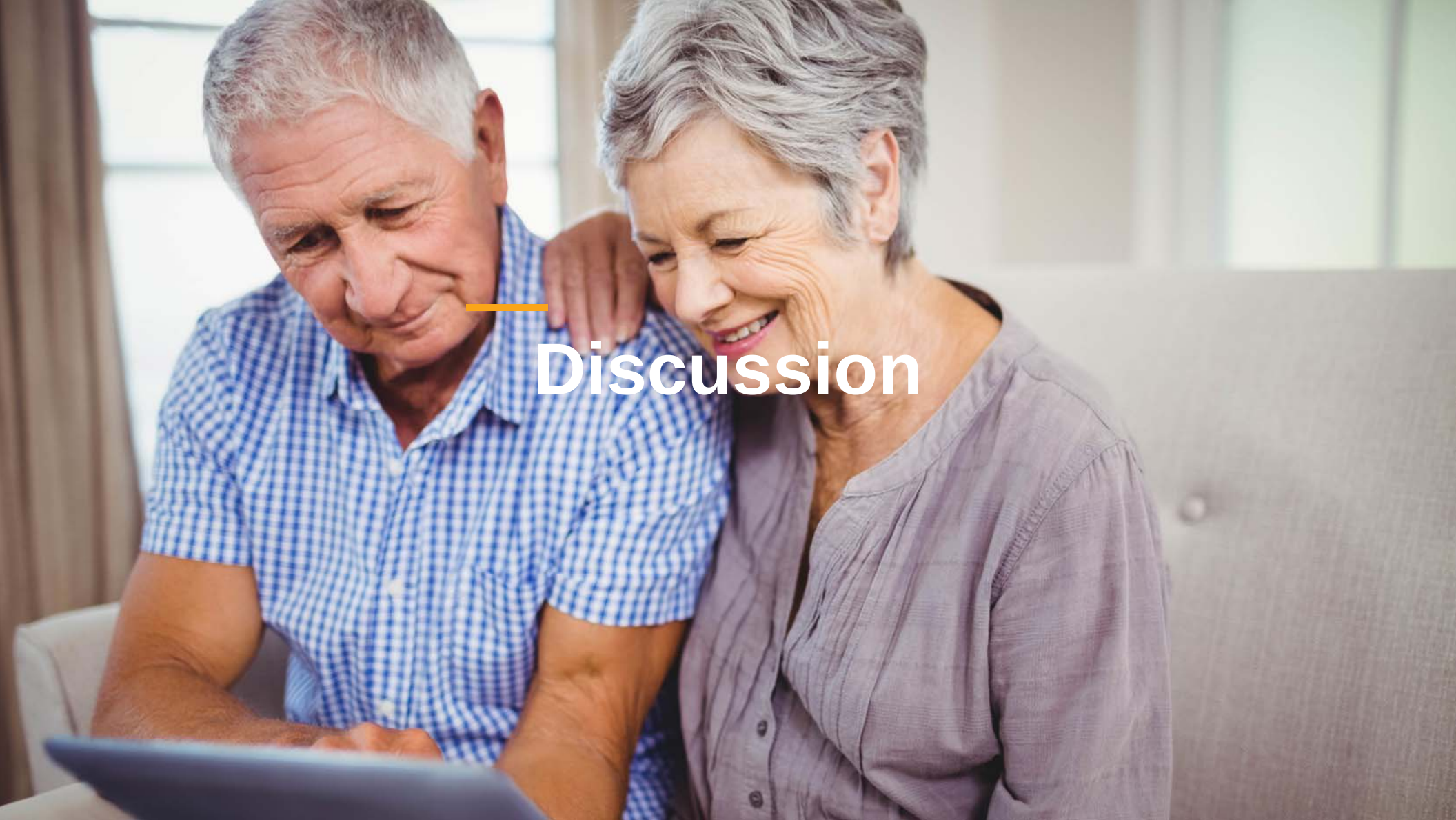
| Opportunities | How can we coordinate and better integrate services and smooth the care experience for these beneficiaries? |
| | Engaging with plan partners to work on improving care for the hospice population |
| Challenges | Achieving the aims of the hospice providers and plans while providing high quality care |
| | Developing a structure for a benefit that can be implemented relatively seamlessly and that protects the interests of all parties |

**MedPAC 2014 Report to Congress stated: "The carve-out of hospice from MA fragments financial responsibility and accountability for care for MA enrollees who elect hospice. Including hospice in the MA benefits package would give plans responsibility for the full continuum of care, which would promote integrated, coordinated care, consistent with the goals of the MA program." (reiterated in 2016)**

Sources MedPAC. 2014. Report to Congress. Accessed Sept. 7, 2016. http://www.medpac.gov/documents/mar14_entirereport.pdf



# Discussion