

## 2017 Public Policy Priorities

The American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine engages in public policy advocacy to advance the field, promote the interests of palliative care and hospice patients, and support the health professionals who care for them. The needs of patients and their families throughout the care continuum guide AAHPM's policy agenda. The following priorities are intended to help direct the Academy's efforts and resources, including collaboration with outside entities.

***A just, effective and efficient system of health care requires palliative care as a key component. In order to achieve this aim, the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine will focus its advocacy efforts on:***

**developing an adequate, well-trained, sustainable hospice and palliative care workforce** to ensure access to consistent, high-quality care for the expanding and diverse population of patients with multiple chronic conditions or life-threatening or serious illness, as well as their families and caregivers.

**preserving and expanding timely access to hospice and palliative care** in all clinical settings, through emerging technologies, and in evolving payment and delivery models, including seeking sustainable reimbursement for interprofessional time spent delivering high-value services aligned with patient and family goals.

**increasing funding for hospice and palliative care research** to strengthen clinical practice and improve health care delivery for all patients living with multiple chronic conditions or life-threatening or serious illness, as well as their families and caregivers.

**ensuring timely and effective access to prescription medications** for patients with medically appropriate indications while recognizing the public health imperative to curb prescription drug abuse, misuse, and diversion and collaborating with professional, regulatory and industry stakeholders to maximize individual and public safety.

**advancing palliative care in national quality measurement and performance improvement strategies** to ensure a focus on high-value patient- and family-centered outcomes across the continuum of care, including promoting the development and use of meaningful metrics and benchmarks for quality reporting and value-based reimbursement.

*–Approved by the Board of Directors February 22, 2017*

