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June 25th, 2020

National Institutes of Health (NIH) COVID-19 Treatment Guideline Panel Co-Chairs
NIAID-NIH Executive Secretary,
Division of Clinical Research
5601 Fishers Lane,
MSC 9806 Bethesda, MD 20892-9806

Via electronic submission: COVID19TreatmentGuidelines@nih.gov

Dear Drs., Gulick, Lane, Masur and Paul,

Thank you for your recent correspondence and support for our Coalition's development of the attached recommendations and suggestions to enhance the National Institutes of Health (NIH) COVID-19 Treatment Guidelines. The Coalition's thirteen national organizations, appointed a small review Committee*, chaired by Phil Rodgers, MD, FAAHPM, Professor of Family Medicine and Internal Medicine, and Director of Adult Palliative Care Clinical Programs at the University of Michigan. The Coalition's recommendations focus on suggested edits to the Guidelines themselves (attached) and also the creation of a comprehensive and concise table for insertion, ***Four Essential Elements of Palliative Care in COVID-19 Pandemic*** (attached). This table also includes helpful links to original sources and more substantive material.

We welcome this opportunity to provide these evidence-based recommendations and commend the NIH for its willingness to revise these Guidelines as more information regarding the COVID-19 pandemic becomes available.

Our organizations together represent the medical, nursing, social work, pharmacy, and spiritual care professionals who deliver palliative care with specialized training and expertise in pain and symptom management, difficult communication, end-of-life care, and bereavement support. Our members on the frontlines of the COVID-19 pandemic are experiencing unprecedented demand for their services. As we know by recent news reports and emerging literature, hospitals and health systems are utilizing palliative care professionals and teams in unprecedented ways and numbers, including real-time consultation and ready-to-use tools for treating clinicians. The inclusion of this essential content into the NIH Treatment Guidelines will assist with the rapid dissemination of this essential information.



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We also look forward to ongoing collaboration with your team, and will offer updates to our content and recommendations, as appropriate.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss these recommendations in more details with our review committee, please contact Amy Melnick, Executive Director, National Coalition for Hospice and Palliative Care at amym@nationalcoalitionhpc.org or 202-306-3590.

*Members of the Review Committee

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