

# INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THE 2025 ANNUAL REPORT FOR HOSPICE PROVIDERS



STATE HEALTH PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT  
AGENCY

100 NORTH UNION STREET, SUITE 870

MONTGOMERY, AL 36104

(334) 242-4103

[www.shpda.alabama.gov](http://www.shpda.alabama.gov)

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETION OF THE 2025 ANNUAL REPORT FOR HOSPICE FACILITIES *Forms HPCE4*

These instructions for the 2025 Annual Report for Hospice Providers are intended to assist in completing and submitting accurate data. To ensure data integrity and determine utilization rates of inpatient and outpatient hospice services, information reported must be consistent throughout the state. These instructions are intended to assist in collecting data and minimize the number of errors. Should these instructions not address a particular concern, please request additional assistance by contacting Jacquelin Barnes, [jacquelin.barnes@shpda.alabama.gov](mailto:jacquelin.barnes@shpda.alabama.gov), (334) 242-4108, or Lee Ann Taylor, [leeann.taylor@shpda.alabama.gov](mailto:leeann.taylor@shpda.alabama.gov), (334) 242-4512.

New rules regarding the filing of annual reports with SHPDA became effective October 3, 2025. These rules reduced the maximum late fee that can be charged to non-compliant entities from a maximum of \$10,000 for non-rural health care providers to \$1,500 and reduced the late fees on rural providers from a maximum of \$5,000 to \$750. The rule changes also imposed a filing fee on all providers that must be paid as a part of the annual report submission. Non-rural providers will be assessed a filing fee of \$1,500, and rural providers will be charged a filing fee of \$750. These fees must be paid along with the submission of the annual report in order for the report to be deemed "received" and for the provider to be deemed compliant with the rules related to the submission of mandatory reports (Ala. Admin Code r. 410-1-3-.11).

**One report must be filed for each provider-issued CON Authority. Each satellite office operating under CON Authority granted to a parent (all providers operating under the same Medicare Provider Number) must be listed on Page 9, providing the name of the satellite provider(s) as indicated on the license issued by the Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH), and the county of location.**

### *Page 1*

The provider identification number is assigned by SHPDA and **can be obtained from the Contact Implementation form filed with the Agency.**

The provider name must match the name on the current license issued by the Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH).

**Mailing Address:** Provide the complete mailing address to be used by SHPDA for mailing purposes. This address may be different from the physical address of the agency.

**Physical Address:** Provide the complete physical address of this provider as indicated on the ADPH license.

**County of Location:** Choose the county of physical location of the parent provider.

**Facility Telephone:** Provide the primary general telephone number of the provider, including the area code.

**Facility Fax:** Provide the primary general fax telephone number of the provider, including the area code.

Electronic signatures on the form are preferred. If the provider does not have electronic signature capability, the report may be printed, manually signed by both individuals, scanned, and e-mailed as an attachment to [data.submit@shpda.alabama.gov](mailto:data.submit@shpda.alabama.gov). Pursuant to electronic filing requirements, the report **must** be submitted in pdf format only. A hard copy by mail, commercial carrier, or fax **cannot** be accepted.

The signatures and requested identifying information **must** be provided by two separate individuals. The primary preparer of the annual report will be contacted first for additional/corrected information. The administration official may be contacted in the event the preparer is unavailable or for informational purposes. If the report is prepared by the administrator, a separate second signature

is still required, and may be provided by either another member of Administration, or by a corporate official. Legible e-mail addresses for both the preparer and second verifying administrative individual **must** be provided.

*Page 2*

**SECTION A: PROGRAM**

**A1: Program Type**

**A. Agency Type:** Indicate the structure of the hospice provider issued CON Authority.

**B. Ownership:** Provide the organizational structure of the provider as filed with the Secretary of State's Office, or as reported to the IRS in abstention of Secretary of State filing.

**C. Waiting List:** Indicate whether patients were placed on a waiting list for admission due to a temporary inability to provide needed services. This inability is typically a result of a temporary utilization of all current available resources. Patients not placed on a waiting list but referred to another provider are not to be included.

**A2: Licensed Inpatient Facilities**

**NOTE:** For providers with CON Authorization providing vested inpatient services, indicate the total number of Inpatient CON Authorized beds reporting under the same Medicare Provider Number as all providers included in pages 1 and 9 of the annual report. Also provide breakdowns of CON Authorized inpatient beds according to structure of location of this service. **THIS INCLUDES ALL PROVIDERS WITH VESTED AND NON-VESTED CON AUTHORIZED INPATIENT BEDS.**

*Page 3*

**SECTION B: PATIENT VOLUME**

**EXAMPLES:**

**In-Home Hospice Care:**

**Provider "A" holds CON-Authorization to provide In-Home level services only. All Routine and Continuous Care levels of care provided are to be reported under "In-Home Hospice Care".**

**Provider "B" holds CON Authorization to provide In-Home and Inpatient levels of care. All Routine and Continuous Care levels of care provided by**

**Provider "B" are to be reported under "In-Home Hospice Care".**

**Contractual Inpatient Care:**

**Provider "A" holds CON-Authorization to provide In-Home level services only. All GIP and Respite levels of care provided by Provider "A", regardless of location of care, should be reported as Contractual Inpatient Care.**

**Provider "B" holds CON Authorization to provide In-Home and Inpatient levels of care. Inpatient-level care (GIP and Respite) provided in a location other than the CON-Authorized Inpatient facility under common ownership, is to be reported as "Contractual Inpatient Care".**

**Inpatient Hospice Care:**

**This level of care is not applicable to providers not holding CON-Authorization to provide Inpatient levels of care.**

**Provider "B" holds CON Authorization to provide both in-Home and Inpatient levels of Care. Inpatient-level care (GIP and Respite) provided in the CON-Authorized Inpatient facility is to be reported as "Inpatient Care". GIP and Respite levels of care must be provided in beds owned or leased (not contracted) by the hospice provider.**

**B1: Patients Served**

**a. Total New (Unduplicated) Admissions:** Report the total number of patients admitted not previously served by this provider.

**b. Re-Admissions (Duplicated Admissions) from Prior Years:** Report the total number of patients re-admitted who were previously served by this provider but who were discharged/revoked/transferred in a prior year.

**c. Total (Unduplicated) Admissions During this Reporting Period:** Sum of Total New Unduplicated Admissions (B1a.) and Duplicated Admissions from Prior Years (B1b.).

**d. Re-Admissions (Duplicated Admissions) from Current Reporting Year:** Report the total number of patients previously served by this provider in the current reporting year, discharged/revoked/transferred during the reporting year, and re-admitted during the same reporting year (initial admission has also been counted in B1a.).

**e. Total Admissions for Reporting Period:** Sum of Total Unduplicated Admissions during this Reporting Period (B1c.) and Duplicated Admissions from the current reporting period (B1d.). Admissions reported on Page 4, Sections B2 and B3, **MUST** equal the Admissions reported for this line-item.

**f. Total Carryovers:** Report the total number of patients under continuous admission status on both December 31, 2022, and January 1, 2023.

**g. Total Unduplicated Patients Served During Reporting Period:** Sum of Total Unduplicated Admissions during the Reporting Period (B1c.) and Total Carryovers (B1f.). Unduplicated Patients Served reported on Pages 7 – 7b, Section D1, **MUST** equal the Unduplicated Patients Served reported for this line-item.

#### Page 4

##### **B2: Total Admissions by Race**

Provide the total number of all Admissions, regardless of the year of Admission or number of Admissions, for the reporting period broken down by race. The Total Admissions **MUST** equal the Agency Total number of Admissions reported in Section B1e. A statement on letterhead and signed by an Administrative official must be attached for providers exceeding 10% of Total Admissions reported as "Other". This statement is to specify if the inability to break down "Other" Admissions further is a result that this data is not collected by the provider, or that this information was not reported by the patients.

##### **B3: Total Admissions by Age and Gender**

Provide the total number of all Admissions, regardless of the year of Admission or number of times admitted, for the reporting period broken down by age groups and gender. The Total Admissions **MUST** equal the Agency Total number of Admissions reported in Section B1e.

##### **B4: Deaths/Discharges**

**a. Total Deaths:** Report the total number of Deaths occurring during the reporting period.

**b. Total Live Discharges/Revocations/Transfers:** Report the total non-death discharges occurring during the reporting period.

**c. Total Deaths/Live Discharges/**

**Revocations/Transfers:** Sum of Total Deaths (B4a.) and Total Live Discharges/Revocations/Transfers (B4b.).

**c. Total Patient Days (Deaths and Discharges):** Report Total Patient Days of care provided, regardless of admission date or number of times admitted, for all patients whose care ended (death/discharge/revocation/transfer) during the reporting period.

#### Page 5

##### **C1: Patient Days by Level of Care**

**a. Routine Home Care Days:** Provide the total number of Routine In-Home level care Patient Days provided during the reporting period.

**b. Continuous Care Days Billed:** Provide the total number of Continuous Care level care Patient Days billed during the reporting period. Continuous Care days **NOT** billed should be reported as Routine Home level care.

**c. Total In-Home Patient Days:** The sum of Routine Home Care Days (C1a.) and Continuous Care Days Billed (C1b.).

**d. General Inpatient Days:** The total number of GIP care days provided by a provider not also holding vested CON Authorization as an Inpatient facility; or GIP care days provided by a provider also holding vested CON Authorization as an Inpatient facility, but for which GIP care was provided in another location through contract (not the CON Authorized Inpatient facility).

**e. General Respite Days:** The total number of Respite care days provided by a provider not also holding vested CON Authorization as an Inpatient facility; or Respite care days provided by a provider also holding vested CON Authorization as an Inpatient facility, but for which Respite care was provided in another location through contract (not the CON Authorized Inpatient facility).

**f. Total Contractual Inpatient Days:** The sum of GIP (C1d.) and Respite (C1e.) care days provided by a provider not also holding vested CON Authorization as an Inpatient facility; or GIP and Respite care days provided by a provider also holding vested CON Authorization as an Inpatient facility, but for which GIP and Respite care was provided in another location through contract (not the CON Authorized Inpatient facility).

**g. General Inpatient Days:** The total number of GIP care days provided by a hospice also holding vested CON Authorization as an Inpatient facility.

**h. Inpatient Respite Days:** The total number of Respite care days provided by a hospice also holding vested CON Authorization as an Inpatient facility.

**i. Total Inpatient Hospice Days:** The sum of GIP (C1g.) and Inpatient Respite (C1h.) care days provided by a hospice also holding vested CON Authorization as an Inpatient facility.

**j. Total Patient Care Days:** The sum of Total In-Home Patient Days (C1c.), Total Contractual Inpatient Days (C1f.), and Total Inpatient Hospice Days (C1i.).

**k. Routine Hospice Care Days Provided in a Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF):** Report the total number of Routine Patient Care Days provided during the reporting period to patients whose residence is deemed to be a SNF. (Do not include contractual days for beds leased by an In-Home provider to provide inpatient level care services).

**l. Total Percentage of In-Home Hospice Care Days provided in a Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF):** Divide the Routine Hospice Care Days provided in a Skilled Nursing Facility (C1k.) by the Total In-Home Patient Days (C1c) \* 100 to determine percentage.

**Page 6**

**C2: Patient Days by Reimbursement Source**

Enter the number of Patient Care Days provided during the reporting period, broken down by the primary reimbursement source. The Total reported **MUST** equal the Total reported in Section C1j.

Indicate yes or no if this provider includes care provided when there is no primary source of reimbursement (charity care) and a primary source of reimbursement of self-pay (private pay) as one source throughout this report.

**C3: Patient Days by Diagnosis**

Enter the total number of Patient Care Days provided for each listed Diagnosis. The Total Number of Patient Days **MUST** equal the Total reported in Section C1j.

**Page 7**

**Section D: Patient Location**

**D1: County of Residence:** For the purposes of this report, only patients whose legal residence is in the state of Alabama should be reported. Data for **ALL** counties for which CON Authorization is held by providers (parent and any satellite offices) reporting under the Medicare Provider Number of this provider,

must be included. For CON-Authorized counties in which no services were provided during the reporting period, enter "0". Counties for which CON-Authorization is not held should be left blank.

**Number of Deaths:** Enter the number of Deaths occurring during the reporting period by county of residence. The total number of Deaths **MUST** equal the total number of Deaths reported in Section B4a.

**Number of Live Discharges:** Enter the number of Live Discharges/Revocations/Transfers of all patients for any reason other than death, occurring during the reporting period by county of residence. The total number of Live Discharges/Revocations/Transfers reported **MUST** equal the total number of Live Discharges/Revocations/Transfers reported in Section B4b.

**Patient Days:** Enter the total number of Patient Days of care provided during the reporting period by county of residence. The total number of Patient Days **MUST** equal the total number of Patient Days reported in Section C1j.

**Number of Patients Served:** Enter the number of Unduplicated Patients Served by county of residence, counting each patient only once regardless of the number of Admissions during the reporting period. The total number of Patients Served **MUST** equal the total number of Patients Served reported in Section B1g.

**Page 8**

**Section E: Agency Information**

**E1 Volunteer Services:** Enter the total annual percentage of volunteer care hours provided to patients for the reporting period, as reported to CMS, for all providers under common CON Authorization indicated on pages 1 and 9 of the report.

**E2 Length of Service:**

**Average Length of Service (ALOS):** Report the Average Length of Service for all patients who Died or were Discharged/Revoked/Transferred during the reporting period, regardless of Admission date. Total number of Patient Days reported in Section B4d. divided by the sum of Patients reported in Section B4c.

**Median Length of Service (MLOS):** Determine the Length of Service for each patient who Died or was Discharged/Revoked/Transferred during the reporting period, regardless of Admission date. Arrange the LOS numbers for these patients from lowest to highest (1, 2, 3...). The number that falls in the exact middle of the list is the MLOS.

**Example 1 - Odd number of patients:** Seven patients with the following LOS: 25, 34, 2, 17, 33, 60, 22. Arrange numbers in sequence from lowest to highest: 2, 17, 22, **25**, 33, 34, 60. The number 25 is the exact middle number in the list. Therefore, the median LOS is 25.

**Example 2 - Even number of patients:** Eight patients with the following LOS: 25, 34, 2, 17, 33, 60, 22, 35. Arrange numbers in sequence from lowest to highest: 2, 17, 22, 25, 33, 34, 35, 60. The numbers 25 and 33 share the middle position so the median falls between those two numbers. To determine the median LOS, add the two numbers and divide by 2 ( $25 + 33 = 58 / 2 = 29$  [Median LOS])

**Average Daily Census (ADC):** Divide the total number of Patient Care Days (C1j.) by the number of days in the reporting period (365 or 366 for a leap year, or total days of service for partial year reporting).

**Example:** 28,756 patient days divided by 365 possible service days = ADC of 78.78.

Make and keep a copy of the completed report for the provider's records before submitting to [data.submit@shpda.alabama.gov](mailto:data.submit@shpda.alabama.gov) in pdf format.

### **Page 9**

Page 9 should be completed for all licensed providers for which singular CON-Authorization was granted (all providers reporting under the same Medicare Provider Number). Each licensed branch office reporting under the primary provider indicated on Page 1 **MUST** be listed on this page by county of administrative location. The parent provider indicated on Page 1 of this report should **NOT** be reported on this page.

### **Page 10**

#### **CHECKLIST**

The checklist will be populated automatically upon completion of the report. The checklist should be verified prior to submission that sections equal throughout the report for all Patient Days, Admissions, Unduplicated Patients Served, Deaths; and Live Discharges/ Revocations/ Transfers. The checklist is to be included with submission of the Annual Report.

#### **\*\*\*REMINDERS\*\*\***

The annual report **MUST** be signed by both the preparer and an administrative official. Electronic signatures are acceptable.