

Weatherbee Resources launches *RAC Assistance for Hospice*

Hyannis, MA (August 13, 2009) Weatherbee Resources, Inc. announced today that it has launched a new resource as a service to the hospice industry: *RAC Assistance for Hospice* located at www.racassistance.com. Although the impact of the Recovery Audit Contractors (RACs) on hospices is not yet clear, there is the potential that this new level of scrutiny could have significant financial implications for many programs.

“This may be the calm before the storm,” states Heather Wilson, principal of Weatherbee Resources, Inc. “It is an opportunity for hospices to hope for the best but prepare for the worst,” she adds.

Weatherbee has developed the P-E-M (Prepare-Educate-Manage) approach to helping hospices deal with the RAC challenge. **Preparation** focuses on compliance with regulations and conducting risk assessments to determine the hospice’s level of exposure. **Education** focuses on assisting hospices in learning about the RACs, but, more importantly, centers on training hospice clinicians to more accurately document patient eligibility for hospice and higher levels of care. **Management** activities include resources related to developing a comprehensive response to the RACs from the moment of receipt of a request for records, through the Medicare appeals process as necessary. “Weatherbee has helped hundreds of hospices navigate the Medicare appeals process after receiving claim denials from their fiscal intermediaries. We are able to bring all of that experience to help hospices deal with RAC denials in as efficient and cost-effective a manner as possible,” states Joy Barry, principal of Weatherbee Resources.

RAC Assistance for Hospice is collaborating with Tim Rowan of Home Health News to provide an e-newsletter on RAC topics of interest specific to hospices. *RAC Assistance for Hospice* will also use the Hospice Education Network (HEN) to provide comprehensive programming on documentation, corporate compliance and the Medicare appeals process. Once the RACs are fully functional, the [RAC Forum](#) will provide opportunities to monitor and track RAC activity in different parts of the country.

For more information, go to www.racassistance.com.

About Weatherbee Resources, Inc

Weatherbee Resources, Inc provides consulting services and regulatory compliance products and programs exclusively to the hospice industry. As a leader in helping hospices streamline operations, comply with regulations and train staff and volunteers, Weatherbee’s products and services are known for their high quality. Weatherbee also owns and operates the Hospice Education Network, Inc at www.hospiceonline.com which utilizes streaming video technology to provide training resources for hospice staff and volunteers.

The products and services offered by Weatherbee are designed to provide cost-effective solutions to the many challenges faced by hospices today. In providing these products and services Weatherbee aims to support the mission of individual hospice programs by saving hours of staff time that can instead be focused on caring for patients and their families.

Headquartered in Hyannis, MA, Weatherbee has provided products and services to hospices throughout the US since 1997. For more information about Weatherbee, visit www.weatherbeeresources.com or call Sheila Flynn at 508 778 0008.