



Advanced Palliative & Hospice Social Work Certification

The APHSW Certification

The Advanced Palliative & Hospice Social Work Certification is the highest standard your social workers can meet that is both evidence based and objectively validated with an examination.

Like other clinical members of the Palliative & Hospice Team, social workers now have a professional certification to assure your patients and families they are receiving the highest quality social work services and care.

The APHSW not only relies on education requirements, but significant clinical experience (4000 hours) in the field of palliative & hospice care to be eligible for the certificate exam. The exam is based on a robust nationwide job analysis of PH social workers, completed in 2018. APHSW works with PSI to ensure the certification is reliable, psychometrically sound and meets the highest standards of certifications.

We encourage all involved in palliative & hospice care to support their social workers to achieve this advanced certification. Not only will it benefit your patient, families and ensure your services are at the highest standard, but it also adds to the professional identity of social workers in this field.

Many agencies and organizations are already financially supporting their social workers in this process and embedding it into their clinical ladders, as they do for other clinicians on the palliative care & hospice teams.

The certification provides acknowledgment that your organization employs social workers who have met evidence-based, nationally developed criteria established by an objective certification body.

APHSW has an Employer Partnership program available to those agencies, systems, who have multiple social workers who want to apply and are eligible for the APHSW-C certificate that includes discounts for the application fee.

A social worker in palliative or hospice practice must meet all eligibility requirements to sit for the intensive exam. The pass rate is approximately 80%. Recertification is required every four years with 40 hours of appropriate CE credits.

There are now over 500 HPM social workers around the country with their APHSW Certification since the first exam was given in 2019.