



Weekly Roundup

...Reporting the state and national long term care news

Friday, February 14, 2014

ANHA NEWS

Online Registration Open for “AIT Preceptor Certification and Recertification” Seminar

Sponsored by Rx Advantage

Please mark your calendars for March 19, 2014, as ANHA will present a seminar entitled “AIT Preceptor Certification and Recertification Seminar” sponsored by Rx Advantage. This seminar will be held at The Hyatt Regency - Wynfrey Hotel in Birmingham. The seminar will begin at 1:30 pm and conclude at 3:30 pm. This seminar has been approved for 2 hours of continuing education for nursing home administrators. *Please see the attached flyer for more information. Attendees should check www.anha.org approximately one week prior to the seminar to download the handouts.*

Save the Date – “ICD-10- CM Boot Camp for Long Term Care Providers” Educational Seminar May 12 and 13

Sponsored by Gericare Medical Supply and Senior Care Pharmacy

Please mark your calendars for May 12 and 13, as ANHA will present a seminar entitled “ICD-10-CM Boot Camp for Long Term Care Providers” sponsored by Gericare Medical Supply and Senior Care Pharmacy. This seminar will be held at The Embassy Suites in Montgomery. ANHA has a limited block of rooms at the hotel for a reduced rate of \$99. This seminar has limited seating and a registration cut-off date of April 11. This program has been approved for 11 continuing education units (CEUs) for use in fulfilling the continuing education requirements of the American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA).

The seminar will be conducted by Tamela S. McQuiston, RHIT, RAC-CT, AHIMA approved ICD-10-CM trainer and AHIMA Ambassador.

Participants will receive training material to include a 2013 ICD-10 Draft coding manual and ICD-10 training workbook which will be included in the cost of the seminar. At the conclusion participants will receive an AHIMA certificate of completion. *More information regarding this seminar will be forthcoming.*

Call for Nominations: Alabama’s Best Practices

Will you share your Best Practice? You are invited to share your knowledge, positive ideas, creativity and communicate with other professionals as we continue to strive to meet the needs of

our long-term care residents. *Attached is the 2014 Alabama's Best Practices "Call for Nominations."* Each facility is encouraged to look over the nomination form and submit its Best Practice. This year's Best Practices Program is scheduled for Thursday, August 28, 2014. Nominations are due by April 18, 2014.

STATE NEWS

ADPH to Implement Electronic Plan of Correction

The Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) has announced that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) will allow Alabama to be the fourth state in the nation to implement the electronic plan of correction (ePOC) process for certified nursing home providers. This process will allow the ADPH to send the statements of deficiencies to the provider electronically. The provider will then submit the plan of correction to ADPH electronically. Communication will be facilitated through the use of e-mail correspondence.

On February 11, 2014, information about the process and how to enroll was mailed to all certified nursing homes. **It is extremely important that all certified nursing homes enroll now.** CMS requires that all providers enroll at the beginning of implementation of the ePOC process. States who have implemented this process tell us the hardest part is getting all providers to enroll. Enrollment is fully explained in the information sheet.

We have heard providers ask for this capability and we are thrilled that Alabama has been selected to participate. Please enroll now. If you have questions please call ADPH's Pamela Carpenter or Mia Sadler at (334) 206-5111. *Please see the attachment for more details.*

OBRA PASRR Office Closed for State Holiday

The OBRA PASRR Office will be closed Monday, February 17, 2014, for the President's Day Holiday. The office will re-open Tuesday, February 18, 2014.

The internet application will remain available for immediate Level I Determination. The Level I Screening must be in to the OBRA Office by 3:00 p.m. on Friday, February 14, 2014, to ensure a Level I Determination this business day.

RCO Meetings Announced

A series of regional meetings for physicians, hospital officials and other interested parties who want to know more about Alabama Medicaid's plans to implement Regional Care Organizations will be held in five locations during February and March. In addition, an online session will be scheduled in March for those unable to attend in person.

The one-hour sessions will update participants on the progress Medicaid has made in complying with state legislation enacted in May 2013 to better control costs while improving patient care. A brief update on the RCO implementation effort will be given although most of the time will be allocated to participants' questions and comments.

For more information please visit

http://www.medicaid.alabama.gov/CONTENT/2.0_newsroom/2.7.3.2_RCO_Meetings_grid.aspx

Alabama Board of Nursing Launches Electronic Newsletter

The Alabama Board of Nursing has launched a quarterly electronic newsletter. Find the first edition at this link:

http://abn.alabama.gov/UltimateEditorInclude/UserFiles/docs/newsletter/February_2014.pdf.

You can go to www.abn.alabama.gov and find the link in the top middle column of the first page of the website.

Nurse Aide Abuse Registry

Please note that the following individual has been placed on the Alabama Nurse Aide Abuse and/or Sanction Registry. This individual is prohibited from working in any long-term care facility. To check nurse aides, you can use the nurse aide web site at www.adph.org (Click on Contents A-Z - located in the dark blue at the top of the screen - then Click on Nurse Aide Registry - then Click in the white box and type in the Social Security Number of the person you are trying to find. Be sure and include the dashes in the SSN.)

Name

Ashley Sadler

Effective Date

2/4/14

NATIONAL NEWS

Updated 2014 Medicare Part B Therapy Physician Fee Schedule File Posted on AHCA Website

Thanks to the efforts of Tony Marshall, the Senior Director of Reimbursement for the Florida Health Care Association, the American Health Care Association (AHCA) is now able to post the updated 2014 Medicare Part B Fee Schedule that applies to Part B therapy services for the period from January 1 through March 31, 2014:

http://www.ahcancal.org/facility_operations/medicare/Pages/default.aspx.

As you will recall, the initial 2014 fee schedule published by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) on December 10, 2013, contained substantial sustainable growth rate (SGR) related statutory cuts to payment rates. However, with the end of the year enactment of the Pathway for SGR Reform Act of 2013, providers instead will see a one-half percent (0.5%) update to the CY 2014 Medicare Part B Fee Schedule and an extension of the 1.0 Work GPCI floor through March 31, 2014.

Included in this file are tables related to Part B therapy services, including the continuation of the multiple procedure payment reduction (MPPR) policy, a change in codes commonly billed by speech language pathologists, as well as changes to wound related codes.

An overview of the Physician Fee Schedule Payment Policies may be found on the CMS website <http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-Fee-for-Service-Payment/PhysicianFeeSched/index.html?redirect=/PhysicianFeeSched/> and an overview of skilled nursing facility consolidated billing and annual updates can be found at <http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Billing/SNFConsolidatedBilling/>.

State-specific details <http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-Fee-for-Service-Payment/PhysicianFeeSched/PFS-Carrier-Specific-Files-Items/CY2014-CarrierFiles.html?DLPage=1&DLSort=1&DLSortDir=descending> for 2014 can be found online.

CMS Issues 2014 Annual Update to the Part B Therapy Code List

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) recently issued Change Request 8482 <http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Transmittals/Downloads/R2844CP.pdf> which updates the Part B therapy code lists for calendar year (CY) 2014 by adding four “Always Therapy” codes, one “Sometimes Therapy” code, and deletes two current codes. The update to the therapy code list reflects those made in the CY 2014 Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System and Current Procedural Terminology, Fourth Edition (HCPCS/CPT-4). Please make sure your billing and coding staff are aware of these changes. A summary of these changes, affecting wound therapy codes and several codes commonly used for speech-language pathology (SLP) services, can be found in the CMS MLN Matters article #MM8482 <http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM8482.pdf>.

CDC Launches New Website for Preventing Infections in Long Term Care

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) released a new website <http://www.cdc.gov/longtermcare/> focused on providing infection prevention resources for long term care settings such as skilled nursing care centers and assisted living communities. This site organizes existing infection prevention guidance and resources into sections for clinical staff, infection prevention coordinators, and residents.

Facilities can also directly access the new infection tracking system for long term care facilities in CDC’s National Healthcare Safety Network <http://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/LTC/index.html> , and the innovative infection prevention tools and resources developed as part of the partnership between CDC and the Advancing Excellence in America’s Nursing Homes Campaign (AE).

You can learn more about this new website through the CDC’s Safe Healthcare blog <http://blogs.cdc.gov/safehealthcare/2014/01/23/cdc-launches-new-website-for-preventing-infections-in-long-term-care/>, as Nimalie Stone, MD, Medical Epidemiologist and long-term care expert at CDC, discusses this new website, including the resources developed under the partnership between CDC and Advancing Excellence to prevent *C. difficile* infections in nursing center residents.

OIG Releases 2014 Work Plan

The US Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Inspector General (OIG) has just released its *Work Plan for FY 2014*, which summarizes new and ongoing OIG reviews and activities for 2014. Usually released each year in October; but delayed this year, the Work Plan helps LTC providers to focus on the issues most critical to the federal government. Under the heading, *Nursing Facilities*, OIG’s Work Plan focuses on *Medicare Part A billing by skilled nursing facilities (SNFs)*; *Questionable billing practices for Part B services during nursing home stays*; *State agency verification of deficiency corrections*; *Program for national background checks for long term care employees*; and *Hospitalizations of nursing home residents for manageable and preventable conditions*. Under the heading, *Hospices*, the Work Plan focuses on *Hospice in assisted living facilities*. Under the heading, *Part A and Part B Contractors*, the Work Plan focuses on *Medicare administrative contractors—use and evaluation of local edits*;

Medicare benefit integrity contractors' activities; and ZPICs and PSCs—identification and collection status of Medicare overpayments. Under the heading *Other Part A and Part B Program Management Issues*, the Work Plan focuses on *Payments for incarcerated beneficiaries; Enhanced enrollment screening process for Medicare providers; Idle Medicare provider records; and Payments to providers subject to debt collection.* Under the heading, *Medicare Advantage*, the Work Plan focuses on *Encounter data—CMS oversight of data integrity; and Risk adjustment data—sufficiency of documentation supporting diagnosis.* Under the heading, *State Management of Medicaid*, the Work Plan focuses on *State mechanisms to fund their Medicaid Programs; State claims for federal reimbursement; State adjustments of federal reimbursement; State program integrity activities and compliance with federal requirements; and OIG oversight of state Medicaid Fraud Control Units.* Under the heading, *Medicaid Managed Care*, the Work Plan focuses on *State payments to managed care entities; data collection and reporting; program integrity in managed care; and beneficiary protections in managed care.* Under the heading *Legal Activities*, the Work Plan focuses on *Exclusions from program participation, Civil monetary penalties; False Claims Act cases and corporate integrity agreements; Providers' compliance with corporate integrity agreement; Advisory opinions and other industry guidance; and Provider compliance training and provider self-disclosure.* To obtain a complete copy of OIGs work plan go to <http://oig.hhs.gov/reports-and-publications/workplan/index.asp#current/>

Next SNF PEPPER Distributed Electronically

As reported previously, TMF Health Quality Institute is contracted with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to produce and distribute the Program for Evaluating Payment Patterns Electronic Report (PEPPER). To date, PEPPERS have been available electronically to SNFs/swing bed units of short-term acute care hospitals. Other SNFs have received their PEPPER in hard-copy format via mail.

TMF is currently developing a secure portal on its website to deliver PEPPERS to SNFs that do not have access to QualityNet. TMF anticipates the PEPPERS will be made available for download in May 2014; and they will remain accessible for approximately one year. To receive notification when the PEPPER is available and guidance on accessing the PEPPER, join the email list at <http://www.pepperresources.com> (see the gray box on the upper right section of the Home page).

Please note these requirements:

1. Access to the PEPPER will be restricted to the provider's Chief Executive Officer, President or Administrator. Note: Corporate offices and/or facility management companies will need to obtain PEPPERS from each individual provider in their organization.
2. Requestors will be required to enter their 6-digit CMS certification number (also referred to as a provider number or PTAN) (third digit of "5" or "6" for SNFs). This is ***not*** the same number as the tax identification number or national provider identification number.
3. For verification purposes, requestors will be required to enter either a medical record number ***or*** a patient control number for a patient who received services at the provider during a specified time period (TMF will determine this time period closer to report distribution). Note: Only numerical entries can be accepted. If providers use only letters in both of these fields they must contact TMF to request assistance. Patient names cannot be entered due to patient privacy laws.

This will not impact providers who receive their PEPPER via QualityNet. SNFs/swing bed units of short-term acute care hospitals will continue to receive their PEPPER via QualityNet. These providers will be notified via email once the QualityNet distribution is complete. Visit <http://www.pepperresources.com> for more information about PEPPER or to submit questions about PEPPER.

Reminder: Post OSHA Illness & Injury Forms on Feb. 1 until April 30, 2014

February 1 is the deadline for employers to post the Summary of Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA) Occupational Work-Related Injuries and Illnesses Summary Form 300A, which must remain posted until April 30, 2014. The injuries and illnesses being reported are for calendar year 2013.

Work-related injuries and illnesses that must be reported are those that occur in a work environment and results in one of the following conditions: a loss of consciousness, sick days, medical treatment beyond first aid, restricted work activities, a job transfer, and death. Other conditions that must be recorded are needle stick injuries or cuts from sharp objects as well as sprain and strain injuries to muscles joints and connective tissue according to the OSHA Form 300. For a complete list of injuries and illness that need to be recorded, go to <https://www.osha.gov/recordkeeping/RKforms.html>. There are forms that can be completed by printing a blank form or forms can be filled out online.

An employer must keep the OSHA's log and summary for five years after the reported year. For example, 2012 must be retained through 2017.

FACILITY NEWS

Facility News is now posted on ANHA's news website: news.anha.org.

Here are some of the articles posted this week:

- Nursing Home Helps Man "Speak" for the First Time
- Alabama Nursing Home Recognized at National Health Care Quality Symposium
- Share Your Snow Stories

To submit stories from your facility, contact John Matson at the Association Office at (334) 271-6214 or jmatson@anha.org.

OTHER NEWS

Emergency Preparedness Workshop Offered

The National Center for Disaster Medical Response, University of South Alabama Center for Strategic Health Innovation (NCDMR/CSHI) would like to invite you to participate in a two day Emergency Preparedness Workshop. This program is a result of a cooperative effort between NCDMR/CSHI and the Alabama Department of Public Health Center for Emergency Preparedness. Over the past ten years CSHI has collaborated with the Alabama Nursing Home Association and others, and again wants to personally invite everyone to attend.

The focus of ARRTC Administrative will target issues and concerns specifically important to Chief and Administrative personnel of health care facilities in Alabama responsible for leadership and guidance during emergencies and disasters. The goal is to provide an environment for knowledge exchange, a forum for discussion of lessons learned, and an opportunity for participants to have an interactive conversation about specific emergency management issues identified from recent disaster responses.

NCDMR/CSHI will host two sessions:

- April 8 & 9, 2014
- June 17 & 18, 2014

The agenda will be the same for both sessions so do not limit participation to one person; however, registration will be limited to 75 per session.

The attached brochure provides details about topics, speakers and logistics of travel and accommodations. Please complete the registration form and fax or mail it to CSHI. Call CSHI at (251) 461-1805 or (251) 461-1392 if you have questions.

“Manual Updates to Clarify Skilled Nursing Facility, Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility, Home Health, and Outpatient Coverage Pursuant to *Jimmo vs. Sebelius*” MLN Matters® Article — Released

MLN Matters® Article #MM8458 (<http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNMattersArticles/Downloads/MM8458.pdf>), “Manual Updates to Clarify Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF), Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility (IRF), Home Health (HH), and Outpatient (OPT) Coverage Pursuant to *Jimmo vs. Sebelius*” has been released by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and is now available in downloadable format. The article was prepared and is being distributed as a result of the settlement agreement in the case of *Jimmo v. Sebelius*. This article is designed to provide education on the updated portions of the “Medicare Benefit Policy Manual” (MBPM). It includes clarification on the coverage requirements of skilled nursing and skilled therapy services to Medicare beneficiaries.

Quality Improvement Videos

We are excited to share with you two short videos developed by CMS’ Quality Improvement Organization (QIO) Program that highlights important quality improvement principals, the PDSA (Plan, Do, Study, Act) Cycle and Recognizing and Eliminating the 7 Wastes (Waiting, Overproduction, Rework, Motion, Processing, Inventory, and Transportation). Each video is 6-7 minutes in length and are available to you as teaching tools and offer a wonderful opportunity to spark or re-ignite your quality improvement efforts in 2014. We request that you view the videos and then share it with 3 of your colleagues. The QIO would like to know how you have used the videos and/or the quality improvement principals to help re-ignite quality improvement efforts in your facility.

The Domestic Lean Goddess – Getting the Kids to School on Time – PDSA:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jsp-19o_5vU. The Domestic Lean Goddess – Clothing

Processing Center – Eliminating the 7 Wastes (Muda):

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JkXUqxOOFEA>

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Time</u>
February 14	ANHA Region VII Meeting RSVP: Gail McInnish (251) 937-3501, gail.mcinnish@infirmarhealth.org Guest Speaker: ANHA's John Matson Topic: How to Share Good News about Nursing Homes	Felix's Fish Camp Mobile	12:00 p.m.
February 18	ANHA Facility Standards/QA Committee Meeting	ANHA Office Montgomery	10:00 a.m.
February 19	ANHA Convention/Education Committees Meeting	ANHA Office Montgomery	10:00 a.m.
February 19	ANHA Region II Act/SS Auxiliary Meeting RSVP: Mary Anne Parsons (256) 218-3706 Speaker Topic: Person Centered Therapy	Catfish Cabin Albertville	11:00 a.m.
February 27	ANHA Executive Board Meeting	ANHA Office Montgomery	10:00 a.m.
March 5	ANHA Region VI Act/SS Auxiliary Meeting RSVP: Shonda Young (256) 329-0868 Guest Speaker: ANHA's John Matson Topic: How to Share Good News about Nursing Homes Lunch will be provided	Bill Nichols State VA Home Alex City	11:00 a.m.
March 19	Seminar: AIT Preceptor Certification & Recertification	Hyatt Wynfrey Birmingham	1:30 p.m.
April 3	ANHA Region III Meeting RSVP: Kevin Ball (205) 788-6330, kball@ballhealth.com Guest Speaker: ANHA's John Matson Topic: How to Share Good News about Nursing Homes Lunch will be provided	Arlington Rehab & Health	12:00 p.m.

Alabama Nursing Home Association

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Links:

Alabama Nursing Home Association <http://www.anha.org>

AL Board of Examiners of Nursing Home Administrators <http://www.alboenha.state.al.us>

AL Dept. of Public Health <http://www.adph.org>

CMS <http://cms.gov>