



Weekly Roundup

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

Friday, February 21, 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.*

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

Nurse Aide Abuse Registry – Inadvertent Error

We have been notified by the Alabama Department of Public Health that an inadvertent error caused an individual to be placed on the nurse aide abuse registry. Please note that the following individual has **NOT** been placed on the Alabama Nurse Aide Abuse and/or Sanction Registry. ADPH has apologized for any inconvenience this may have caused and they working to make sure this does not happen again.

Name

Ashley Sadler (Sabler)

Effective Date

2/4/14

NATIONAL NEWS

CMS Announces “Pause” in Medicare Recovery Audits

Welcome news from Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) after hearing last week at the Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) Forum that a significant increase in the number of audits in the Recovery Audit (RA) program over the last several years is a major factor for the 2+ year backup at the ALJ level. On Tuesday, 2/18/14, CMS announced on its website that it is “pausing” RA audits in preparation for the procurement of new RA contracts and to “allow CMS to continue to refine and improve the Medicare RA Program.” To obtain a complete copy of the announcement go to http://www.cms.gov/Research-Statistics-Data-and-Systems/Monitoring-Programs/Medicare-FFS-Compliance-Programs/Recovery-Audit-Program/Recent_Updates.html.

Specifically, CMS states in the announcement that it is in the procurement process for the next round of RA Program contracts. According to CMS, it is important that the agency transition down the current contracts so that the RAs can complete all outstanding claim reviews and other processes by the end date of the current contracts. In addition, a pause in operations will allow CMS to continue to refine and improve the RA Program. Several years ago, CMS states that it made substantial changes to improve the RA program, and it will continue to review and refine the process as necessary. Providers should note the important dates below:

- February 21 is the last day an RA may send a postpayment Additional Documentation Request (ADR)
- February 28 is the last day a MAC may send prepayment ADRs for the RA Prepayment Review Demonstration
- June 1 is the last day a RA may send improper payment files to the MACs for adjustment

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.

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 Brings Snow Inside for Residents to Enjoy
- Alabama Nursing Students Receive Scholarships from Nursing Home Foundation

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.

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=JkXUqxO0FEA>

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Time</u>
February 27	ANHA Executive Board Meeting	ANHA Office Montgomery	10:00 a.m.

- March 5 ANHA Region VI Act/SS Bill Nichols State VA Home 11:00 a.m.
 Auxiliary Meeting Alex City
 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
- March 19 Seminar: AIT Preceptor Hyatt Wynfrey 1:30 p.m.
 Certification & Recertification Birmingham
- April 3 ANHA Region III Meeting Arlington Rehab & Health 12:00 p.m.
 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

Alabama Nursing Home Association

4156 Carmichael Road ♦ Montgomery, AL 36106 ♦ PH: (334) 271-6214 ♦ FAX: (334) 244-6509

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>