



Weekly Roundup

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

Please disseminate relevant information to the appropriate department.

- Administration Nursing Dietary Activities Social Services
 Rehabilitation Housekeeping Maintenance Laundry

Friday, February 28, 2014

ANHA NEWS

2014 Ms. Alabama Nursing Home Pageant Entry Packets Sent to Facilities

ANHA has mailed the 2014 Ms. Alabama Nursing Home Pageant information packet to the Activities/Social Services Department at each facility. The packet was also e-mailed to each facility administrator. If you do not receive the packet of information in the coming days, please contact John Matson at (334) 271-6214 or jmatson@anha.org to request a copy. *For your convenience, a copy of the pageant information packet is attached.*

March 31 is the Deadline for 2014 ANHA Dues

Monday, March 31 is the deadline for payment of the 2014 ANHA membership dues. Facilities that have not paid their dues in full or have not established a payment plan may be dropped from the membership. Please contact Pat Williams at the Association Office at (334) 271-6214 or pwilliams@anha.org if you have any questions or want to set up a payment plan.

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 – “Playing By the Rules for the Medicaid Nursing Home Program and Conducting an Effective Medical Record Audit” Educational Seminar April 2

Sponsored by Gericare Medical Supply and Senior Care Pharmacy

Please mark your calendars for April 2, as ANHA will present a seminar entitled “Playing By the Rules for the Medicaid Nursing Home Program and Conducting an Effective Medical Record Audit” sponsored by Gericare Medical Supply and Senior Care Pharmacy. This seminar will be held at Hyatt Regency- Wynfrey Hotel. This program has been approved for 6 continuing

education units (CEUs) for nursing home administrators and social workers and 7.2 hours for nurses. *More information regarding this seminar will be forthcoming.*

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

Medicaid Update

Expedite Online Web Portal:

1. In order to be accepted, all applications submitted on Expedite must be accompanied by the following two separately attached forms to the Sponsor, Legal and Veteran Status page:
 1. Attachment 1: a completed **Form 202 Appointment of Representative** document assigning Appointment of Representative to the Nursing Home Facility submitting the online application (if you are assisting the family by submitting the application online, submit the signed family sponsor form too at this time)
 2. Attachment 2: a signed **Agreement and Affirmation** signature page.

If you indicate in the *status* of a page that a form *is* attached, make sure you attach the 202 and agreement/affirmation forms to that page as separate pdf attachments.

2. Status matters! “Saved” status just means you have saved it in the queue to return to later. “Submitted” status means you have submitted the application to Medicaid for processing.

3. Only works with Internet Explorer version should be IE-9 or newer.
 1. If you have an old operating system, you may have to use work-arounds or update the operating system.
4. If you are submitting for more than one nursing home facility, remember that you will need multiple facility codes so that Expedite with route the application to the appropriate Medicaid District Office. You may want to have different user names to keep up with the different facilities. E.g. first initial of your name, last name, and short name for nursing facility.
5. Mr. Paul McWhorter, Medicaid's Policy Director will be happy to answer any questions. His direct line is 334 242-5660. If your nursing home changes ownership, please let Medicaid LTC know.

Annual Renewals:

Beginning in September 2013, facilities began to receive a letter addressed to the *Medicaid Application Counselor* that contains a list of the residents in the facility whose annual renewals are coming due the next month. Please make sure that letter goes to the staff who track and monitor Medicaid eligibility and assist families with applications and renewals. The application counselors may assist the family in gathering any information needed to submit the annual renewal; remind family sponsors that Medicaid is up for renewal; or assist in other ways to ensure continued eligibility and care.

Trouble with SSI cases?

You may have noticed that patients who are eligible for Medicaid because of SSI status sometimes get terminated when they are actually still eligible? It isn't uncommon for SSI to suspend status when a SSI check is returned undeliverable or for other reasons when the recipient is still eligible for Medicaid. When SSI places a recipient in *suspended* status, their Medicaid *terminates*. (It happens via a nightly file transmission from SSI to Medicaid). If a patient is SSI eligible and their Medicaid terminates but you know they are still Medicaid eligible, contact Patricia Swain at Medicaid. She can submit a form 8036 to the Social Security Administration to find out the suspended status reason and request appropriate actions. Her phone number is 334.353.3690.

ADPH to Implement Electronic Plan of Correction – Update

On February 11, 2014, information about the ePOC process and how to enroll was mailed to all certified nursing homes. **It is extremely important that all certified nursing homes enroll now.** The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (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 previously sent.

A big thank you to all the certified nursing homes that have already enrolled. As of February 26, 2014, a total of fifty providers have successfully enrolled and have their ePOC activated. This activation will allow the providers to receive and send the plan of correction electronically.

We encourage the remaining providers to enroll **NOW**. Once you receive your ePOC login and password from the QIES system for providers please email us at epoc.signup@adph.state.al.us so that we can activate your account. If you have any questions about the enrollment process please

contact Pamela Carpenter or Mia Sadler at 334-206-5111. *Please see the attachment for more details.*

RCO Meetings Announced - Update

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 February and March. An online session is planned in March for those unable to attend in person.

The one-hour sessions will update participants on the progress the Agency 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.

Registration is not required.

Session	Date	Time	Location
Mobile	Thursday, March 6	5:30 p.m	Mobile Government Plaza Auditorium 205 Government Street Mobile, AL 36644
Tuscaloosa	Monday March 10	5:30 p.m.	Calvary Baptist Church Chapel Building 1121 Paul W. Bryant Dr., Tuscaloosa, AL 35401 Park in North Lot at the corner of 12th Avenue and Bryant Drive.
Birmingham	Monday March 17	6 p.m.	Birmingham Botanical Gardens 2612 Lane Park Rd. Birmingham, AL 35223
Online	Monday March 24	noon	Call-in information to be provided closer to time

Questions?

Contact: Robin Rawls, Director, Communications
Alabama Medicaid Agency
(334) 353-9363 or robin.rawls@medicaid.alabama.gov

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

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.)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
April Buckley	2/24/14

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.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Ashley Sadler (Sabler)	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

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:

- Ms. Alabama Nursing Home Visits Mardi Gras
- 67 Alabama Nursing Homes Ranked Among Nation's Best
- Capitol Insider: Update on Medicaid RAC Audits and More

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

OTHER NEWS

Strategies for Implementing a Fall Prevention Program that Works – Pioneer Network Webinar

According to the Centers for Disease Control, a resident fall in a nursing home costs on average \$9,100 to \$13,500. In 2008, Empira, a Minnesota consortium of skilled nursing homes, implemented a program to prevent and reduce resident falls in fifteen of their homes. The Empira Fall Prevention Program is a combination of nationally recognized evidence-based, fall prevention practices and practical applications from the most recent research findings. Empira, however, challenged many of the standards of practice for reducing falls, and in so doing, achieved an average 31 percent reduction in the prevalence of resident falls.

A webinar will be held on April 10, from 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. The cost is \$99.00.

Register for this webinar at <http://www.pioneernetwork.net/Events/Webinars/HotTopics/> and learn about the process and outcomes of Empira's Fall Prevention Program including how those homes became alarm-free, restraint-free, with corrected bed heights (no low beds), no floor mats and the cautionary use of gripper socks. You'll hear how they included the skills, knowledge, participation and commitment of all staff rather than it being a "nursing only" program. You will learn where to get more information about how to implement this program and start reducing resident falls in your home.

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=JkXUqxOOFEA>

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Time</u>
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 12	ANHA Region II Meeting RSVP: Jim Walker (256) 927-7408, jimwalker@earthlink.net Guest Speaker: ANHA's John Matson Topic: How to Share Good News about Nursing Homes	Catfish Cabin Albertville	12:00 p.m.
March 19	Seminar: AIT Preceptor Certification & Recertification	Hyatt Wynfrey Birmingham	1:30 p.m.
April 2	Seminar: Playing by the Rules for the Medicaid Nursing Home Program & Conducting an Effective Medical Record Audit"	Hyatt Wynfrey Birmingham	8:30 a.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>