



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, March 21, 2014

ANHA NEWS

ANHA Mourns the Passing of A. Wray Tomlin and O.D. Dickerson

The Alabama Nursing Home Association mourns the loss of two long-time members.

Reverend Albert Wray Tomlin ("Wray"), age 79, passed away on March 17, 2014, in Birmingham. Rev. Tomlin was President of Methodist Homes for the Aging for 32 years prior to his retirement in 2011. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorials be made to the Methodist Homes Fountain of Love Fund, 1520 Cooper Hill Road, Birmingham, AL, 35210.

Onnie Davis Dickerson Jr., 79, passed away March 18, 2014. Mr. Dickerson served as ANHA President in 1973. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to the American Heart Association or the First United Methodist Church of Jasper, AL.

Mid-Year Convention: Online Registration Open

Modified Scramble Golf Tournament, Mexican Fiesta Beach Bash New for 2014!

Great things are in store for ANHA's Mid-Year Convention! We've planned informative seminars and ample time to visit with your friends and colleagues. New for 2014, the Golf Tournament will feature modified scramble play and the Beach Bash will have a Mexican flare with more healthy food options. *Please see the attached preliminary brochure for more information.*

Online Registration:

[Member Nursing Home Registration](#)

[Associate Member/Vendor Registration](#)

Reserve Your Room for ANHA Mid-Year Convention

You may now reserve your room at the Perdido Beach Resort for the 2014 ANHA Mid-Year Convention. To ensure availability of rooms, all participants are encouraged to make overnight reservations by March 28, 2014.

The following rates have been negotiated for Mid-Year Convention Attendees:

- \$174.00 per Standard/Double Room
- \$229.00 per Gulf Front Single/Double Room

To make a reservation, call 800-634-8001 or visit www.perdidobeachresort.com. ANHA's group code is 8680. Look for convention registration details soon.

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.

“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. *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.*

“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. *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.*

Less than One Month Left to Submit Your Best Practice

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

Montgomery Medicaid District Office Moving

ANHA has been notified that the Alabama Medicaid's Montgomery District Office will be moving on April 1, 2014, and will be closed during that week. ANHA will provide information regarding new address as soon as it is available.

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:
 - i. 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)
 - ii. 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. Use Internet Explorer version IE-9 or newer.
 - i. 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, you will need multiple facility codes so that Expedite will 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 is available to answer any questions. His direct line is 334 242-5660. If your nursing home changes ownership, please let Medicaid LTC know.

Two important concerns have been brought to Medicaid's attention. The **first** is that some offices are receiving a paper nursing home application from the family at the same time they receive an Expedite application for the same applicant. Please ask the nursing home application counselors to communicate and coordinate with the families regarding the submission of the nursing home application. Two applications are not better than one. It requires the worker to review both applications, discern and inquire with both sponsors about the differences and causes delays in getting the client approved. The **second** is somewhat isolated to one particular district but has to do with the family providing the nursing home with a fully completed application and the nursing home submitting an Expedite application, with only the first page, signature page, and sponsor and affirmation forms attached. When the worker calls the family sponsor, they are being told that they provided the nursing home with a fully completed application including bank and other records. With coordination and communication, these issues should clear up quickly.

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.

Preferred Drug List Update

Effective April 1, 2014, the Alabama Medicaid Agency will:

1. Require prior authorization for payment of tobramycin inhalation solution (generic Tobi inhalation solution). Brand Tobi inhalation solution will be preferred with no PA.

*Use Dispense as Written (DAW) Code of 9 for brand Tobi inhalation solution. DAW Code of 9 indicates the following: Substitution Allowed by Prescriber but Plan Requests Brand - Patient's Plan Requested Brand Product to be Dispensed.

2. Include preferred Proton Pump Inhibitors in the mandatory three-month maintenance supply program. Prescriptions for three month maintenance supply medications will not count toward the monthly prescription limit. A maintenance supply prescription will be required after 60 days stable therapy.

3. Update the Preferred Drug List (PDL) to reflect the quarterly updates. The updates are listed below:

PDL Additions

Tobi Inhalation Solution

Anti-infective Agents/Aminoglycosides

PDL Deletions

Levemir

Diabetic Agents/Insulins

Levemir Flexpen

Diabetic Agents/ Insulins

Tobramycin Inhalation Solution (Generic

Anti-infective Agents/Aminoglycosides

Tobi Inhalation Solution)

Xopenex HFA

Respiratory/Beta-Adrenergic Agonists

Medicaid Provider Insider

Attached is the latest issue of Alabama Medicaid Agency Provider Insider.

Another Medicaid RCO Meeting Cancelled

The Alabama Medicaid Regional Care Organization meeting scheduled for noon on Monday, March 24 has been cancelled. A new date will be set as soon as possible.

Please check the RCO pages on the Alabama Medicaid Agency website for updates and information on this initiative at http://medicaid.alabama.gov/CONTENT/2.0_newsroom/2.7.3_Regional_Care_Organizations.asp
[x](#)

ADPH Implements 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. ADPH reports that they have 89 facilities completely signed up and ready to go using the ePOC process. Five surveys have been delivered using the ePOC process.

One of the difficulties facilities seem to be having is not completing the "activation" process which consists of three multi-layered steps.

1. Facilities must submit the names and emails of facility staff who will participate in the ePOC program.
2. Facilities receive log in and passwords from CMSNet.
3. Facilities return to CMSNet and activate their ePOC account with CMSNet by using the secure log in provided.
4. The state agency "enables" the facility in the CMS ePOC program once the facility has activated their account.

From discussion with the facilities, they seem to get the email with approval with log ins and passwords and stop. The third page of the attachment explains the final steps to be completed by the facility. The term activation is used many times with differing meanings. "Activation" occurs on the CMSNet site. "Enable" occurs in ASPEN as part of ADPH's responsibility.

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.*

NATIONAL NEWS

CMS Announces another Medicare Auditing Program

In late 2013, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), announced yet another Medicare auditing program – i.e., the Supplemental Medical Review Contractor (SMRC) audits. According to CMS' information, SMRC's will perform and provide support for a variety of tasks aimed at lowering the improper payment rates and increasing efficiencies of the medical review functions of the Medicare and

Medicaid programs. The SMRC's primary task will be to conduct nationwide medical reviews as directed by CMS. The review will be performed on Part A, Part B and DME Providers and suppliers, and will focus on medical records and documents that will help them determine whether Medicare claims were billed in compliance with coverage, coding, payment and billing practices. The focus of the reviews may include vulnerabilities identified by CMS internal data analysis, the Comprehensive Error Rate Testing (CERT) program, professional organizations and federal oversight agencies. Strategic Health Solutions is the CMS SMRC, and has the responsibility to notify CMS of any identified improper payments and noncompliance with documentation requests. Obtain more detailed information on SMRC audits please visit <http://www.cms.gov/Research-Statistics-Data-and-Systems/Monitoring-PRograms/Medical-Review/SMRC.html>.

New QAPI Tools

We have been informed that in a collaborative effort with the University of Minnesota and Stratis Health, subject matter experts, consumer groups, and nursing home stakeholders, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) created "process" tools that may be used to implement and apply some of the basic principles of QAPI. A Process Tool Framework has been created to crosswalk each CMS Process Tool to the QAPI Five Elements. This framework includes a description of the purpose or goal for each tool that is hyperlinked within the framework.

For more information: <http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Provider-Enrollment-and-Certification/QAPI/NHQAPI.html>, click on tools.

FACILITY NEWS

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

Here are some of the articles posted this week:

- Mobile Area Nursing Home Hosts Big Mardi Gras Celebration
- National Nursing Home Week Update

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

National Nursing Home Week Products Now Available



"Living the Aloha Spirit" is the theme for National Nursing Home Week 2014.

To Hawaiians, the word "aloha" has a deeper significance than just a fond farewell. By *Living the Aloha Spirit*, we show others love and respect and joyfully share life in order to create a better world. Key attributes of the "Aloha Spirit" include patience, kindness, humility and good feelings in caring about others.

The American Health Care Association has put together a group of fantastic products that reflects this vibrant theme so that you and your staff can bring Hawaiian joy and happiness to your residents. Visit AHCA's online store at www.ahcapublications.org to view the colorful and fun product line for National Nursing Home Week®.

National Nursing Home Week T-Shirts

Jones Sportswear is offering National Nursing Home Week t-shirts. *Please see the attached flyer from Jones Sportswear for more information.*

OTHER NEWS

Reminder: ADPH SouthernLINC Emergency Phone Call Down

Please remember to answer the Alabama Department of Public Health's weekly call down of the SouthernLINC emergency phones. The call down takes place every Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. If you have any questions, contact John Matson at the Association office at (334) 271-6214 or jmatson@anha.org.

Get Recognized for Meeting Quality Initiative Goals



The American Health Care Association (AHCA) has opened submissions for the 2014 Quality Initiative Recognition Program. Nursing homes have the opportunity to be recognized for demonstrating achievement of the AHCA/NCAL Quality Initiative goals. Members have until Thursday, May 1, 2014, to submit their data qualifying them for recognition. All members recognized through the program will be honored at AHCA/NCAL's 2015 Quality Symposium in

Austin, Texas, and additional honors will be bestowed to those achieving multiple goals.

[Learn more about the recognition levels, eligibility requirements and submission steps on AHCA's website.](#) E-mail qualityinitiative@ahca.org with any questions about the Recognition Program.

Please see the attached document for more information.

Participate in AHCA's Staffing Survey

The American Health Care Association (AHCA) is conducting its annual, nationwide staffing survey to examine retention and turnover rates for nursing center employees. The 2013 Staffing Survey is being sent to all nursing centers in the United States. All centers are asked to complete and return the survey by Thursday, May 1, 2014. Individual center and company responses to the survey will be kept confidential. Published results will appear in the aggregate form only.

How to Access the 2013 Survey - www.ahcancal.org/research_data/staffing

As a multi-facility company, you may:

- Opt to direct your centers to fill out individual surveys ([xls-zipped](#)) or ([PDF](#)), or
- Have your corporate office complete the multi-facility survey questionnaire ([xls-zipped](#)), which is designed specifically for multi-facility operations. *Please note that the corporate survey, like the individual center survey, also collects relevant data for each of your centers. AHCA changed the format for ease of use by corporate staff that may complete the survey.*

AHCA will notify all nursing homes about this survey through a direct mailing. If you prefer to have your corporate office complete this survey on behalf of all your centers, then you may wish to let your centers know they do not need to fill out this information.

If you prefer each of your centers to complete individual facility surveys, you may wish to forward the instructions for completing/returning the survey to each center's Administrator, Human Resources Manager, or other appropriate contact, as many of the survey questions pertain to payroll data.

It is preferred that completed surveys may be emailed to research@ahca.org. However, you may also fax: (202) 454-1299; or mail:

AHCA 2013 Nursing Facility Staffing Survey
c/o American Health Care Association
1201 L Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005

Why Participate?

Participation in this survey is of benefit to your organization. Reporting your 2013 staffing trends can help your company identify areas of improvement and assist you on your quality journey. AHCA member may also be recognized for their staff turnover results through the 2014 Quality Initiative Recognition Program. *Note that for the AHCA 2014 Quality Initiative Recognition Program Staff Stability component, achievement will be based on the data submitted in this staffing survey. In order to be considered for this goal, you must complete the survey by the May 1, 2014, deadline. Survey data submitted after this deadline will not be considered.*

In addition, AHCA members can access their survey results online through LTC Trend Trackersm. Members can compare their staffing data to national and state averages, as well as local peers in aggregate.

If you participated in the 2012 Staffing Survey and you are a user of LTC Trend Tracker, you may access that information now. You may also access the 2012 Staffing Survey Report on the AHCA website through the Research - Staffing page.

Please note: If your organization is a registered user of LTC Trend Tracker, retention and turnover information for your company's individual centers can be made available to users within your organization for quality improvement and benchmarking purposes. No one else will be able to see your individual center data. If your organization uses LTC Trend Tracker, and you do not wish to allow users within your organization to have access to the retention and turnover information submitted by your organization, please check the check box on the survey form.

Please email any questions that you may have regarding AHCA's 2013 Staffing Survey to research@ahca.org. Thank you in advance for completing and returning the survey by May 1, 2014.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Time</u>
March 27	ANHA Region V Meeting RSVP: Eldridge Stewart (334) 682-4231, estewart@frontiernet.net Guest Speaker: ANHA's John Matson Topic: How to Share Good News about Nursing Homes Lunch will be provided	Golden Ranch Selma	12:00 p.m.
March 28	ANHA Region VII Act/SS Auxiliary Meeting RSVP: JoAnn Smily (334) 636-5614 or (334) 637-3239	Felix's Fish Camp Mobile	11:30 a.m.
March 28	ANHA Life Safety Code/Physical Plant Committee Meeting	ANHA Offices Montgomery	10:00 a.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 2	ANHA Region IX Act/SS Auxiliary Meeting RSVP by March 31: Debra Dixon (205) 932-1173 Speaker Topic: Caring for Combative Patients Lunch will be provided	Hospice of West Alabama Tuscaloosa	12:00 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
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>