



# 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, April 11, 2014*

## ANHA NEWS

### **Pre-Registration Ends April 18 for Mid-Year Convention**

*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](#)

### **Best Practice Nominations Due April 18**

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.**

### **CANCELLED: "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*

Due to the postponement of the ICD-10 implementation date, ANHA has cancelled this seminar. We are working on rescheduling for a future date. We are currently working on refunds for those who have registered.

## STATE NEWS

### **Regional Meetings to Update Stakeholders on RCO Implementation**

The Alabama Medicaid Agency has rescheduled 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.

The meetings will be held in Birmingham, April 10; Mobile, April 14; Tuscaloosa, April 29; and Montgomery, May 5. In addition, an online session will be scheduled on May 6 for those unable to attend in person.

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

Reservations are not required. Updates related to the meetings will be posted at [http://www.medicaid.alabama.gov/CONTENT/2.0\\_newsroom/2.7.3.2\\_RCO\\_Meetings\\_grid.aspx](http://www.medicaid.alabama.gov/CONTENT/2.0_newsroom/2.7.3.2_RCO_Meetings_grid.aspx)

The meeting dates, times and locations are:

**Birmingham - 6:00 p.m., Thursday, April 10**

Birmingham Botanical Gardens – Lecture Hall  
2612 Lane Park Road  
Birmingham, Alabama 35223

**Mobile - 5:30 p.m., Monday, April 14**

Mobile Government Plaza - Auditorium  
205 Government Street  
Mobile, Alabama 36644

**Tuscaloosa - 5:30 p.m., Tuesday, April 29**

Calvary Baptist Church  
1121 Paul W Bryant Dr.  
Tuscaloosa, AL 35401

**Montgomery - 5:30 p.m., Monday, May 5**

Alabama Medicaid Agency  
500 Monroe Street – Second Floor Auditorium  
Montgomery, Alabama 36104  
Monroe Street Customer Service Entrance

**Online Meeting - 12:00 p.m., Tuesday, May 6**

Details will be posted closer to time

General information about Regional Care Organizations is available at:

[http://www.medicaid.alabama.gov/CONTENT/2.0\\_newsroom/2.7.3\\_Regional\\_Care\\_Organizations.aspx](http://www.medicaid.alabama.gov/CONTENT/2.0_newsroom/2.7.3_Regional_Care_Organizations.aspx). Questions? Contact Robin Rawls at [robin.rawls@medicaid.alabama.gov](mailto:robin.rawls@medicaid.alabama.gov).

**Medicaid Nursing Facility Reminder**

A nursing facility provider that fails to provide the required documentation or additional information for audit reviews as requested by the Agency or its designee within ten working days from receipt of the faxed letters shall be charged a penalty of one hundred dollars per recipient record per day for each calendar day after the established due date unless an extension request

has been received and granted. The penalty will not be a reimbursable Medicaid cost. **The Agency may approve an extension for good cause. Requests for an extension should be submitted in writing by the nursing facility Administrator to the Clinical Services & Support Division, Medical & Quality Review Unit with supporting documentation.**

Mail the request to:  
Medical & Quality Review Unit  
501 Dexter Avenue  
P.O. Box 5624  
Montgomery, Alabama 36103-5624

Providers should request an extension as soon as it is determined that the requested record(s) will be late.

### **Important Updated Information About ePOC**

As of March 26, 2014 ADPH has had 112 facilities signed up and ready to use the ePOC process. Eleven surveys (health and life safety code recertifications, complaint only and revisits) have been delivered using the program. ADPH has approximately half of the certified facilities signed up. For those providers who are already signed up and have received the statements of deficiencies electronically please do not send in each plan of correction separately. Instead submit the entire plan of correction all at once.

The Alabama Department of Public Health needs the other half of the certified facilities to sign up. Anything you can do to encourage your sister providers to sign up would be greatly appreciated. Alabama Nursing Home Regional Directors are assisting ADPH by encouraging the facilities in their region to get signed up.

If facilities are not signed up by the time of their next survey exit date they may not be able to take advantage of this efficient and effective process.

For facilities to get signed up there is a multi-layered process explained in detail in the document, “Steps for Accessing ePOC” which is attached. One of the difficulties some facilities are 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 to CMSNet.
2. For the individuals requested, log in and passwords from CMSNet are sent to those individuals.
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.

Some facilities are getting the email from CMSNet with their log in and passwords and stop and don't complete the process by returning to CMSNet and activating their ePOC account.

If you have completed the first three steps, please send an email with your facility's name to [epoc.signup@adph.state.al.us](mailto:epoc.signup@adph.state.al.us). ADPH check's this inbox daily and will respond as your facility is enabled or if problems persist.

# NATIONAL NEWS

## OSHA Develops Safe Patient Handling Brochure for Nursing Homes

OSHA has developed Safe Patient Handling: Preventing Musculoskeletal Disorders in Nursing Homes (<https://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3708.pdf>), a new brochure that addresses the prevention of musculoskeletal disorders among nursing home and residential care workers. This brochure explains how implementing a safe patient handling program can reduce or prevent the number and severity of these musculoskeletal hazards. A successful safe patient handling program includes a commitment to the program by all levels of management, a program committee that involves frontline workers, hazard assessment, selecting technology and equipment to control hazards and training workers on the elements of a safety patient handling program. For more information about safe patient handling and on protecting healthcare workers, visit OSHA's Healthcare Web page at <https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/healthcarefacilities/index.html>.

# FACILITY NEWS

## “Seriously Hawaiian” National Nursing Home Week 2014



National Nursing Home Week® (NNHW), which begins on Mother's Day May 11 and ends May 17, 2014. This year's theme is "Living the Aloha Spirit," which provides for flexible programming and family involvement. It revolves around the "Aloha Spirit" from the Hawaiian culture - it encompasses the qualities of being patient, kind, respectful, and compassionate. We hope you will join others during this week to honor and entertain everyone you serve, and the staffs that care for them! This special attention will make for a remarkable week. Visit Facebook

([www.Facebook.com/NursingHomeWeek](http://www.Facebook.com/NursingHomeWeek)) and "Like" us. Be sure to post your favorite pictures to the Facebook page so others can enjoy your fun and creativity.

## National Nursing Home Week Products Now Available

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](http://www.ahcapublications.org) to view the colorful and fun product line for National Nursing Home Week®. *Please see the attached flyer for a list of items and prices.*

## 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

## **AQAF Offers INTERACT III Training**

AQAF, Alabama's QIO, is offering INTERACT III training on the following dates:

- April 15, 16 and 17 – Region(s) 5,6 and 8 – Turenne and Associates, Montgomery
- May 13, 14 and 15 - Region(s) 2,3,and 4 – AQAF offices, Birmingham
- June 11 and 12 - Regions(s) 1 and 9 – AQAF offices, Birmingham
  - All training sessions are from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm.

**INTERACT (Interventions to Reduce Acute Care Transfers)** is a quality improvement program designed to improve the identification, evaluation and communication about changes in resident status. INTERACT's goal is to reduce the frequency of transfers to the acute hospital setting. Transfers to the hospital can be emotionally and physically difficult for residents, and result in numerous complications of hospitalization, and they are costly.

Suggestions for who should attend the INTERACT training:

- Appoint a Facility Champion for the INTERACT III implementation in your nursing home. It could be the DON, ADON, Quality leader, Administrator or other clinical leadership staff that can supervisor the process from a facility standpoint.
- Appoint a Lead CNA Champion to lead the efforts to implement and encourage the use of the STOP and WATCH communication tool.
- Appoint a Lead Nursing Champion to lead the efforts to implement and encourage the use of the SBAR communication tool.
- Appoint a Lead Champion to initialize the Quality Improvement tools, to track and measure admissions and readmissions by the month.

INTERACT training has been approved for three CEUs for nursing home administrators and four CEUs for nurses and social workers. This training has been endorsed by ANHA. To register go to [www.aqaf.com/interact](http://www.aqaf.com/interact), or call Rose Finkelstein at (205) 970-1600, ext. 3107.

## **Shortage of Normal Saline**

Due to the shortage of Normal Saline, Fresenius Kabi USA LLC, will temporarily distribute normal saline in the United States from its Norway manufacturing facility. FDA is temporarily exercising enforcement discretion for the distribution of Fresenius Kabi USA's normal saline product while it is needed to address this critical shortage that directly impacts patients. FDA inspected Fresenius Kabi's Norway facility where its normal saline product is made to ensure the facility meets FDA standards. FDA asks that health care professionals contact the Fresenius Kabi USA directly to obtain the product. While these initial shipments will help, they will not resolve the shortage. However, FDA is working closely with manufacturers to meet the needs for normal saline across the U.S. in the coming weeks. Please find below the links to the updated general web posting, the Dear Healthcare Professional letter, labeling and an update on this new supply.

Please email [Valerie.Jensen@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:Valerie.Jensen@fda.hhs.gov) if you have any questions.

Helpful Links:

<http://www.fda.gov/Drugs/DrugSafety/DrugShortages/ucm314743.htm>

<http://www.fda.gov/downloads/Drugs/DrugSafety/DrugShortages/UCM390949.pdf>

<http://www.fda.gov/downloads/Drugs/DrugSafety/DrugShortages/UCM390952.pdf>

<http://www.fda.gov/Drugs/DrugSafety/ucm382255.htm>

## 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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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 Tracker<sup>sm</sup>. 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](mailto:research@ahca.org). Thank you in advance for returning the survey by May 1, 2014.

## **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Time</u>
April 11	ANHA Region VI Meeting RSVP: Jennifer Agee (205) 391-3600, <a href="mailto:jennifer.agee@northporthealth.com">jennifer.agee@northporthealth.com</a> Speaker Topic: Pharmacy Hot Topics Lunch will be provided	ANHA Office Montgomery	11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

April 11	ANHA Region VIII Meeting RSVP: Sal.Lee Sasser-Williams (334) 222-2133, <a href="mailto:sallee@andalusiamanor.org">sallee@andalusiamanor.org</a>	Enterprise Health & Rehab Enterprise	2:30 p.m.
April 18	Pre-Registration Deadline for Mid-Year Convention		
April 28- May 1	ANHA Mid-Year Convention	Perdido Beach Resort Orange Beach	
April 28	ANHA Executive Board Meeting	Perdido Beach Resort Orange Beach	8:30 a.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>