



# 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 18, 2014

## ANHA NEWS

### Pre-Registration Ends TODAY, 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](#)

### **DEADLINE EXTENDED TO APRIL 25<sup>th</sup>: Best Practice Nominations**

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 now due by April 25, 2014.**

### ANHA Senior Games Registration Opens Monday



Registration for the ANHA Senior State Games will open Monday, April 21. The games will be held June 20-21 in Birmingham. People age 50 and over are invited to participate.

To register, visit: [www.seniorstategames.asffoundation.net](http://www.seniorstategames.asffoundation.net). Posters announcing the registration website have been mailed to the Activity and Social Service Departments of each nursing home. If you have any questions, please contact John Matson at the Association office at (334) 271-6214 or [jmatson@anha.org](mailto:jmatson@anha.org). For additional posters, you may contact the ASF Foundation at 800-467-0422, or visit [www.alagames.net](http://www.alagames.net).

# 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:  
**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

## **CMS Issues Proposed Rule to Adopt the 2012 Edition of the Life Safety Code**

A proposed rule that adopts the 2012 edition of the Life Safety Code for health care facilities appears in the Federal Register dated April 16, 2014. Medicare and Medicaid Programs; Fire Safety Requirements for Certain Health Care Facilities; Proposed Rule (<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2014-04-16/pdf/2014-08602.pdf>). Comments are due to CMS by June 16, 2014.

## **CMS Reinforces That PTs and OTs can Perform Power Wheelchair Examinations**

In the April 2014 *Medicare Quarterly Provider Compliance Newsletter* (<http://cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNProducts/Downloads/MedQtrlyComp-Newsletter-ICN909006.pdf>) CMS noted that rehab professionals may perform and document evaluations that become part of the documentation necessary to support Medicare coverage of group 2 power wheelchairs for beneficiary use after they return home.

On page 10 of the newsletter, CMS states:

“The physician may refer the beneficiary to a licensed/certified medical professional (LCMP), such as a physical therapist (PT) or occupational therapist (OT), who has experience and training in mobility evaluations to perform part of the face-to-face examination. This person may have no financial relationship with the supplier.”

The booklet provides information on coverage and documentation requirements, as well as links to resources that SNF PTs and OTs can refer to when asked to perform part of the face-to-face examination prior to a beneficiary’s discharge to home.

## **CMS Booklet Describes Medicare Review Programs**

Earlier this year, CMS released a booklet designed to provide education on the different CMS claim review programs and assist providers in reducing payment errors; in particular, coverage and coding errors.

The “Medicare Claim Review Programs: MR, NCCI Edits, MUEs, CERT, and Recovery Audit Program” ([http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNProducts/Downloads/MCRP\\_Booklet.pdf](http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNProducts/Downloads/MCRP_Booklet.pdf)) booklet includes frequently asked questions, resources, and an overview of the various programs, including Medical Review, Recovery Audit Program Contractor, and the Comprehensive Error Rate Testing Program.

Members should note that this booklet does not include a description of the Part B therapy manual medical review (MMR) conducted by Recovery Auditors for claims surpassing the \$3,700 annual per-beneficiary threshold. Therapy MMR falls under different provisions than the Recovery Audit Program described in this booklet.

## 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

Facility News is now posted on ANHA's news website: [news.anha.org](http://news.anha.org).

Here are some of the articles posted this week:

- Nursing Homes Focus on Improving Health Care Quality
- West Alabama Nursing Home Celebrates Volunteerism
- Athens Man Honored for Service to Country

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

## Governor Proclaims National Nursing Home Week in Alabama

Governor Robert Bentley has officially proclaimed May 11-17 as National Nursing Home Week in Alabama. *A copy of Gov. Bentley's proclamation is attached.*

## “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**

### **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](http://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	4/7/14

### **AQAF Offers INTERACT III Training**

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

- 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.

### **Registration is OPEN for AHCA/NCAL Convention & Expo**

Registration for the 65<sup>th</sup> Annual AHCA/NCAL Convention & Expo is open: <http://www.eventscribe.com/2014/ahcancal/AHCA-Registration.asp>. Occurring October 5-8, 2014, at the Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center (which is located on the banks of the Potomac River near Washington, D.C.), this is a must-attend event for all long term and post-acute care professionals. Rooms at the host hotel sell out quick, so if you plan on attending you need to make your reservations early!

The keynote speakers include General Colin L. Powell, USA (Ret.) and Captain Richard Phillips. When you register, make plans to attend the Gala Dinner & Show with headliner Pat Benatar and Neil “Spyder” Giraldo.

With plenty of professional networking opportunities, education sessions, new Constituency Education Programs and an Expo Hall full of cost-saving products/services you don’t want to miss a thing.

More information can be found on the official Convention & Expo website at <http://www.eventscribe.com/2014/ahcancal/>.

### **Deadline May 1: 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 18	Pre-Registration Deadline for Mid-Year Convention		
April 23	ANHA Region II Act/SS Auxiliary Meeting RSVP: Mary Anne Parsons (256) 218-3906 Speaker Topic: Managing Stress in Healthcare	Catfish Cabin Albertville	11:00 a.m.
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.
April 28	ANHA Convention/Education Committees Meeting	Perdido Beach Resort Orange Beach	1:00 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>