



# 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 25, 2014

## ANHA NEWS

### ANHA Office Closed During Mid-Year Convention

The Alabama Nursing Home Association office will be closed April 28-May 2 during the Mid-Year Convention. The office will re-open on Monday, May 5 at 8:00 a.m. Also, the *Weekly Roundup* will not be published next week.

### **DEADLINE TODAY 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.

### Registration Open for ANHA Senior Games



Registration is open for the ANHA Senior State Games. 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).

### Alabama's Best Practices Program

A total of 17 best practices have been submitted from facilities across the state. Those selected to present at Alabama's Best Practices will be announced in the coming weeks. Mark your calendars for August 28, 2014, for the Alabama's Best Practices Program at the Cahaba Grand Conference Center in Birmingham. Thank you for your interest in and support of the program!

Congratulations to the following facilities for their nominations for the 2014 Program:

Cullman Long Term Care & Rehab Center  
Bill Nichols State Veterans Home  
Cullman Health Care & Rehab Center  
Falkville Health Care Center  
Eastview Rehabilitation & Health Care Center  
Robertsdale Rehabilitation & Healthcare Center  
Magnolia Haven Health & Rehabilitation Center  
Hanceville Nursing and Rehabilitation Center  
Cherokee County Health & Rehab Center

Decatur Health and Rehab  
Oak Trace Care & Rehabilitation Center  
Andalusia Manor  
Woodland Village Health Care & Rehab  
Adams Health & Rehab  
River City Center  
Fair Haven Retirement Community  
South Haven Health & Rehab – Birmingham

## STATE NEWS

### **State Holiday Monday, April 28 – OBRA Screening Office Closed**

The OBRA PASRR Office will be closed Monday, April 28, 2014, for Confederate Memorial Day. The office will reopen Tuesday, April 29, 2014. The internet application will remain available for an immediate Level I Determination.

The Level I Screenings must be into the OBRA PASRR Office by 3:00 p.m. on Friday, April 25, 2014, to ensure a Level I Determination that business day.

### **2014 Annual Report of Standardized Procedures**

It is now time to complete the 2014 Annual Report of Standardized Procedures as mandated by the Alabama Board of Nursing (ABN) Administrative Code, Rule 610-X-6-.12(6). To decrease completion time, ABN has added a review option selection. If your Standardized Procedures have not changed since last year, you may select this option and it will take you directly to the last page of the report. As in previous years, the 2014 format will allow the chief nurse and/or designee to edit, delete or make additions to the 2013 report. Updated instructions are attached for those of you who are new or need reminding how to complete the report.

Remember, **if your facility/agency belongs to a larger corporation, please check with your corporate nurse for direction.** The corporate nurse may be completing the report for all facilities/agencies in the corporation. *A copy of the report and directions is attached.*

### **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 meeting date

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).

## NATIONAL NEWS

### Billing Changes from CMS

The American Health Care Association (AHCA) has from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) learned that providers should take note because the Coordination of Benefits Contractor (COBC) is now the Benefits Coordination and Recovery Center (BCRC). For new contact, address, and Web address information, please visit

<http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNMattersArticles/Downloads/SE1416.pdf>. Other CMS billing changes, include:

- PC Print software version 4.3.0, released in April 2014, is not compatible with Windows XP because Microsoft support for Windows XP ended on April 8. Providers using Windows XP should continue to use version 4.2.6 of PC Print until they upgrade their operating system. <http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Outreach/FFSProvPartProg/Downloads/2014-04-17-eneews-file.pdf>.
- SNF Consolidated Billing: Exclusion of HCPCS Code G0463 for Certain Outpatient Hospital Clinic Visits. If you previously received a SNF CB rejection for HCPCS G0463, you should contact your MAC to verify if you can adjust or resubmit your previously processed claim. <http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Outreach/FFSProvPartProg/Downloads/2014-04-17-eneews-file.pdf>.

### 2014 SNF PEPPERS Available in May Via Electronic Portal

TMF Health Quality Institute, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) contractor responsible to produce and distribute the Program for Evaluating Payment Patterns Electronic Report (PEPPER) for various professional groups, including skilled nursing facilities (SNFs),

has just announced a WebEX entitled *The SNF Program for Evaluating Payment Patterns Electronic Report (PEPPER)* on May 8, 2014, at 2:00PM, Central Daylight Time. The WebEX will focus on: 1) Updates for the new SNF PEPPER, summarizing statistics for FYs 2011-2013; and 2) the new method for accessing the 2014 SNF PEPPER via the Secure PEPPER Access portal on <http://PEPPERresources.com>. Registration is not required to join the event. Simply click on <https://tmfpepper.webex.com/tmfpepper/onstage/g.php?d=924457628&t=a> about 15 minutes prior to the start time of the WebEX. The event number is: 924 457 628 and the event password is: flower. The American Health Care Association (AHCA) has advocated strongly for this process and is pleased that CMS is making this change.

Currently, the SNF PEPPERS are scheduled for release on May 5, 2014; however, TMF will send an email to announce the formal release when the SNF PEPPERS are available to access. To receive this email, join the email list at <http://PEPPERresources.org>. SNFs do not have to register to receive a PEPPER report; however, TMF has asked us to share the following specific information:

- Access to the SNF PEPPER will be restricted to the provider's Chief Executive Officer, President or Administrator. Note: Corporate offices and/or facility management companies will need to obtain PEPPERS from each individual provider in their organization.
- Requestors will be required to enter their 6-digit CMS certification number (also referred to as a provider number or PTAN) (third digit of "5" or "6" for SNFs). This is **\*not\*** the same number as the tax identification number or national provider identification number.
- For verification purposes, requestors will be required to enter either a Patient Control Number (form locator 03a on the UB04 claim form) **\*or\*** a Medical Record Number (form locator 03b on the UB04 claim form) for a patient who received services at the provider during September 2013 ("from" or "through" date is between September 1-30, 2013).  
Note: If providers use only letters in both of these fields they must contact TMF to request assistance. Patient names cannot be entered due to patient privacy laws.

If you have individual or specific questions regarding the 2014 PEPPER reports, please visit [PEPPERresources.org](http://PEPPERresources.org) to submit questions.

## **CMS Issues Two Survey and Certification Memoranda**

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) issued three Survey & Certification Memoranda. Following is a link to each along with a brief summary.

1. Fiscal Year 2014 Post Sequester Adjustment for Special Focus Facility Nursing Homes – Effective April 2014, the number of designated slots and candidates for the SFF designation is adjusted. There will be a gradual increase in the number of SFF slots, which states can begin immediately or reach the required number by July 2014. CMS also states the will be developing several pilot program in various CMS Regions and may be making additional policy process adjustments to the SFF program. Alabama currently has one facility on the list and only one facility is required. A list of five facilities will be submitted to CMS for their consideration of who is on the list once a facility "graduates" from being SFF.  
<http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Provider-Enrollment-and-Certification/SurveyCertificationGenInfo/Downloads/Survey-and-Cert-Letter-14-20.pdf>
2. Focused Minimum Data Set (MDS) and Dementia Care Surveys – CMS is undertaking a pilot to more thoroughly examine the process for prescribing antipsychotic medication as well as other dementia care practices in nursing centers. There are also two focused survey

processes under development: 1) a detailed review of dementia care in nursing centers, including reviewing resident-level and organizational-level processes. 2) evaluation of MDS 3.0 coding practices and the MDS assessments and the associated care planning for residents. CMS will identify the specific facilities to be surveyed for each type of focused survey. CMS plans to pilot these surveys beginning in mid-2014. <http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Provider-Enrollment-and-Certification/SurveyCertificationGenInfo/Downloads/Survey-and-Cert-Letter-14-22.pdf>

1. The MDS Focus Survey Pilot

1. Will begin sometime during Summer 2014. CMS asked states to volunteer to participate and are currently determining which states will be part of the pilot. Five facilities in each state, identified by CMS, will be surveyed under this pilot.
2. The survey will include a subset of MDS items and will survey for accuracy and documentation supporting the coding.
3. The surveyor training will be a short webinar for surveyors and CMS had not envisioned providing this education to providers. CMS will consider making the webinar available to providers.
4. The tools that will be used for the survey are “being piloted” and will be evaluated to determine if they are effective for ensuring accuracy in coding and subsequent linkage to a patient’s care plan.
5. It has been stated that many different parts of CMS use the MDS for various reasons and following the pilot, the agency will determine if it should be expanded nationally.

2. The Dementia Care Focus Pilot

1. Will begin late Summer 2014. CMS is seeking volunteer states to participate.
2. The training is not expected to be available to providers.
3. The reason for the “dementia experts” accompanying the surveyors (see page 3 of S&C: 14-22-NH) is to “provide an additional set of eyes” while observing the patients and the dementia care provided. The “expert” will review observations with the surveyor after the survey and discuss alternative approaches a facility may take. This will enable the “experts” to assist CMS to develop tools and possibly additional training for surveyors that will increase their ability to identify “good dementia care”.

### **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 PTs & 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.

## **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 Celebrate Easter in a Variety of Ways
- ANHA Senior State Games Registration Opens

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

### 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 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>