



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, May 9, 2014

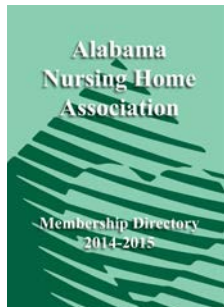
ANHA NEWS

Ms. Alabama Nursing Home Pageant Entry Deadline is May 30

May 30 is the deadline to submit entries for the 2014 Ms. Alabama Nursing Home Pageant.

Contact John Matson at (334) 271-6214 or jmatson@anha.org if you have questions or need an entry form.

2014-2015 ANHA Membership Directory Available



The 2014-2015 ANHA Membership Directory is available for purchase. This is Alabama's most comprehensive listing of nursing homes.

Please see the attached order form for more information.

Online Registration Open for "Sexuality in the Long Term Care Environment: Considerations for Regulators and Providers" Seminar

Please mark your calendars for June 16, 2014, as ANHA will present a seminar entitled "Sexuality in the Long Term Care Environment: Considerations for Regulators and Providers". This seminar will be held at the Hyatt Regency - Wynfrey Hotel in Birmingham. The seminar will begin at 8:30 a.m. and conclude at 5:30 p.m. This seminar is approved for 7.5 hours of continuing education for nursing home administrators. It is approved for 9 contact 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.*

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. 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. For additional posters, you may contact the ASF Foundation at 800-467-0422, or visit www.alagames.net.

Alabama's Best Practices Program

A total of 24 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	Decatur Health and Rehab
Bill Nichols State Veterans Home	Oak Trace Care & Rehabilitation Center
Cullman Health Care & Rehab Center	Andalusia Manor
Falkville Health Care Center	Woodland Village Health Care & Rehab
Eastview Rehabilitation & Health Care Center	Adams Health & Rehab
Robertsdale Rehabilitation & Healthcare Center	River City Center
Magnolia Haven Health & Rehabilitation Center	Fair Haven Retirement Community
Hanceville Nursing and Rehabilitation Center	South Haven Health & Rehab – Birmingham
Cherokee County Health & Rehab Center	Coosa Valley Nursing Home
Haleyville Health Care Center	Oak Park
Floyd E. "Tut" Fann State Veterans Home	Thomasville Health Care & Rehab Center
Athens Rehabilitation and Senior Care Center	Southland Nursing Home

NATIONAL NEWS

CMS Issues Proposed PPS Rule

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has released the proposed rule (<http://s3.amazonaws.com/public-inspection.federalregister.gov/2014-10319.pdf>) for the SNF Prospective Payment System, indicating Medicare rates for the coming fiscal year. **CMS is proposing a 2.0% increase, estimated to be \$750 million for the profession.** There are several aspects to this proposed rule that look positive. A fact sheet can be found on CMS' website at <http://www.cms.gov/Newsroom/MediaReleaseDatabase/Fact-sheets/2014-Fact-sheets-items/2014-05-01-2.html>.

This reflects the third year in a row of market basket increases, and an increase from last year's 1.3% market basket update. It is believed that this is a direct result of the proactive approach the American Health Care Association (AHCA) has implemented over the past few years to work with CMS before the rule is ever written.

Below is a short summary of the key provisions in the SNF PPS proposed rule that could have a direct impact on the long term and post-acute care profession.

Market Basket Update

- The proposed rule provides for a market basket increase for SNFs of 2.0% beginning October 1, 2014. The 2.0% market basket update reflects a full market basket increase of 2.4%, less a 0.4% multifactor productivity adjustment required by Section 3401(b) of the Affordable Care Act.
- CMS estimates that the net market basket update would increase SNF payments by approximately \$750 million in FY 2015.

Other Key Provisions

- In response to AHCA's concerns, CMS is proposing a revision to the current Change of Therapy (COT) Other Medicare Required Assessment (OMRA) policy that would permit providers to use the COT OMRA to reclassify a resident into a therapy RUG from a non-therapy RUG, but only in certain limited circumstances.
- The proposed rule also provided clarification regarding the approval and use of Civil Money Penalties (CMP). CMS clarifies that states may use federal CMP funds only after obtaining prior approval from CMS, along with proposing that States provide more public transparency on the projects that have been funded by CMP funds.
- Wage Index Update: CMS is proposing to use new Office of Management and Budget (OMB) definitions issued last year for the FY 2015 SNF PPS wage index and to identify a provider's urban or rural status. The purpose is to help determine which set of rate tables would apply to the provider. In an effort to mitigate the potential negative wage index impacts for some providers, CMS is proposing to implement these changes by providing a one-year transition with a blended wage index for all providers. The wage index for each provider would consist of a blend of 50 percent of the FY 2015 wage index using the revised OMB delineations. AHCA is studying the impact this proposal would have on the profession and will inform members about the findings.

Comments are due to CMS by June 30, 2014.

AHCA Posts PPS Wage Index Calculator

The American Health Care Association (AHCA) recently held a webinar explaining AHCA's SNF PPS wage index calculator. For those unable to participate in the webinar, AHCA is working on posting a recording on their website.

Also for those unable to participate, the calculator provides AHCA members with:

1. an easy way to calculate their facility's FFY 2015 (Oct 2014-Sept 2015) Medicare PPS Rates as Proposed by CMS;
2. a comparison between their FFY 2014 Medicare PPS Rates (Oct 2013-Sept 2014) and the Proposed FFY 2015 (Oct 2014-Sept 2015) Medicare PPS Rates;
3. an analysis of the impact any change in the wage index for their local area has on the Proposed FFY 2015 (Oct 2014-Sept 2015) Medicare PPS Rates; and
4. (for members who input their Medicare by RUG category data) a summary of their distribution of Medicare days across the RUG categories and across therapy levels of intensity.

You may download the wage index calculator, as well as a user guide on AHCA's website at http://www.ahcancal.org/facility_operations/medicare/Pages/SNFPPS.aspx.

Please note: You must be a member of AHCA with a login and password to download these materials. AHCA will keep you informed of any future tutorials regarding this tool. If you have any additional questions regarding the wage index change, please contact wageindex@ahca.org.

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 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 to submit questions.

STATE NEWS

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 next meeting will be held in Montgomery, May 12.

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

The next meeting will be held on Monday, May 12 at 5:30 p.m. at the Alabama Medicaid Agency in Montgomery, 500 Monroe Street, Second Floor Auditorium, Montgomery, AL 36104. Use the Monroe Street “Customer Service Entrance.”

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. Questions? Contact Robin Rawls at robin.rawls@medicaid.alabama.gov.

FACILITY NEWS

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

Here are some of the articles posted this week:

- South Alabama Nursing Home Receives High Marks for Care
- Birmingham Nursing Home Hosts Community Health Fair
- Press Release: Gov. Bentley Proclaims Nursing Home Week in Alabama
- Two Dozen Nursing Homes Nominated for Alabama’s Best Practices

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

OTHER NEWS

Nurse Aide Abuse Registry

Please note that the following individuals have been placed on the Alabama Nurse Aide Abuse and/or Sanction Registry. These individuals are 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>
Samuel Harris	4/25/14
Antonio Pickett	4/25/14

New ACO Webinar May 14 at 2:00 p.m.

A few months ago AHCA released the *ACO Contracting Guide for SNFs*, a new toolkit for members. The toolkit is comprised of three modules that contain a wealth of information on accountable care organizations (ACOs), a discussion of the current ACO regulations, and guidance for SNFs when considering contracting with an ACO. On Wednesday, May 14, the toolkit’s author, attorney Jan Murray, will hold a webinar for AHCA members to explain how to

best utilize the toolkit. This presentation will discuss the current environment of SNF-ACO arrangements and provide key strategies for SNFs when entering into ACO relationships.

The details of the webinar are as follows:

- What: *Contracting with ACOs: What SNFs Need to Know*, an AHCA webinar event
- When: Wednesday, May 14th, 2:00-3:30pm
- Where: <http://webinars.ahcancal.org/session.php?id=13589>

Ceftriaxone Antibiotic and the Accu-Chek Glucose Monitoring System

We have received information about the use of Ceftriaxone antibiotic in diabetics and the Accu-Chek glucose monitoring system. Please see the below link for more information.

<http://www.fda.gov/medicaldevices/safety/alertsandnotices/patientalerts/ucm177189.htm>

Alere Initiates Voluntary URGENT PRODUCT RECALL of Alere INRatio 2 PT/INR Professional Test Strips

Alere Inc. has initiated a voluntary Class 1 recall in the U.S. of the Alere INRatio2 PT/INR Professional Test Strips (PN 99008G2). This action is a result of complaints of patients who had a therapeutic or near therapeutic INR with the Alere INRatio2 PT/INR Professional Test Strip but a significantly higher INR (outside of therapeutic range) when performed by a central laboratory.

For detailed information pertaining to this Recalls, Market Withdrawals and Safety Alerts message, please click the following link

http://www.fda.gov/Safety/Recalls/ucm396219.htm?source=govdelivery&utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery .

2014 Upcoming Alabama Board of Nursing Vacancies

The Board of Nursing will have three positions available beginning January 1, 2015. The positions, along with the names of the incumbents, are listed. Board members can only serve two consecutive terms. If the board member completes one term, the member is eligible for reappointment. The RN nominations go through the Alabama State Nurses Association (ASNA) Nominating Committee and two names for each position must be sent to the Governor for consideration.

Registered nurses interested in the Nursing Practice, or Advanced Practice position should complete an application and forward to the ASNA. *Do not send the application to the Board of Nursing. The deadline for the application to ASNA is July 15, 2014.*

Licensed Practical Nurses interested in the LPN position should contact the Alabama Federation of Licensed Practical Nurses. Two names of LPNs must be sent to the Governor for consideration.

Letters of support should only be sent to the Governor's office after the names are submitted by the ASNA Nominating Committee or AFLPN.

Registered Nurse Positions:

- Nursing Practice: administrative, clinical, staff development, continuing education, and other practice settings. Incumbent: Pamela Autrey, PhD, MBA, RN (not eligible for reappointment).
- Advanced Practice Nursing: position designated for an advanced practice nurse (CRNA, CRNP, CNM, CNS). Incumbent: Carol Stewart, CRNP, MSN (eligible for reappointment—plans to reapply).

LPN Position:

- AFLPN Nominee: Licensed Practical Nurse nominated by Alabama Federation of Licensed Practical Nurses. Incumbent: Greg Howard (not eligible for reappointment).

Questions about Time Commitment: Contact Genell Lee, ABN Executive Officer, at Genell.Lee@abn.alabama.gov.

Questions about Interview Process: Contact ASNA at 334-262-8321.

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, or call Rose Finkelstein at (205) 970-1600, ext. 3107.

Registration is OPEN for AHCA/NCAL Convention & Expo

Registration for the 65th 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/>.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<u><i>Date</i></u>	<u><i>Event</i></u>	<u><i>Location</i></u>	<u><i>Time</i></u>
May 30	Entry Deadline for Ms. Alabama Nursing Home Pageant		
June 16	Seminar: Sexuality in LTC Environment	Hyatt Wynfrey Birmingham	8:30 a.m.
June 20-21	ANHA Senior State Games	BJCC Birmingham	

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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>