



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 16, 2014

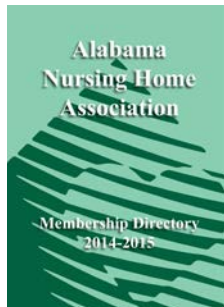
ANHA NEWS

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 Guidance on F441 – Infection Control – Effective Immediately

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has issued an Advance Copy – Single Use Device Reprocessing under Tag F441, Revisions to Interpretive Guidance in Appendix PP, State Operations Manual (SOM) on Infection Control <http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Provider-Enrollment-and-Certification/SurveyCertificationGenInfo/Downloads/Survey-and-Cert-Letter-14-25.pdf>. Important points of the new guidance include: • Single-Use Device Guidance: Nursing homes may purchase reprocessed single-use devices when these devices are reprocessed by an entity or a third party reprocessor that is registered with the Food and Drug Administration.

- Single-Use Device (SUD): A SUD is a device that is intended for one use on a single patient during a single procedure.
- Reprocessed SUD: A reprocessed SUD is an original device that has previously been used on a patient and has been subjected to additional processing and manufacturing for the purpose of an additional single use on a patient.

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.

STATE NEWS

Important Information from the Alabama Department of Public Health

As of May 14, 2014, ADPH has 140 facilities enabled and activated to use the ePOC (electronic plans of correction). Although that is more than half of the certified nursing home providers, there are still a significant number of providers that have not signed up. **Please do so as soon as possible.**

On May 1, 2014, ADPH presented a session on the ePOC process at the Alabama Nursing Home's Mid-Year Convention. ADPH solicited and received both positive and negative comments about the ePOC process. ADPH appreciates your input and requests that you continue to share them.

ADPH would like to share the positive comments first:

- Like the speed in which you get the statement of deficiencies.
- Like the ability to type the plan of correction in the ePOC screens and not having to cut and paste.
- Like that the deficiency with the evidence is right beside the area you type the plan of correction.

The concerns that were expressed with the system were brought up to the ePOC workgroup. This workgroup is comprised of participants from the four participating states, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) Central Office, the CMS Region Offices of I, IV and V and the Alpine Technology Group. ADPH received some feedback from the workgroup regarding some of your concerns that they want to share with you.

Beside each concern is the response ADPH received from the workgroup:

- Timing out of the application after 15 minutes while the user is actively working in it - The system is designed to time the user out 15 minutes from the last key stroke. If you are **actively** working in it and the system is timing out please let us know so we can report it.
- Website running slow – No other participating states has heard of this issue. Alpine would like more information. If you are experiencing this problem please let us know.
- Logging in twice - This level of system security is mandated by Health and Human Services.
- Expiration of password – Again, this is a security mandate by Health and Human Services.

The Alabama Department of Health and the ePOC workgroup appreciate the comments shared from providers. If there is any other concerns, please share them with ADPH.

Important Information from the Alabama Board of Examiners of Nursing Home Administrators

In accordance with the Alabama Immigration Law the Board is requiring that all licensees provide one time documentation that proves citizenship. **All licensed administrators are required to send to the Board immediately a copy of one of the following acceptable documents to prove citizenship. If information is not sent then your license will not be renewed.**

A person's citizenship can to be demonstrated by using any one of the following documents:

1. A driver's license or non-driver's identification card issued by the Alabama Department of Public Safety or the equivalent governmental agency of another state within the United States, provided that the governmental agency of another state within the United States requires proof of lawful presence in the United States as a condition of issuance of the driver's license or non-driver's identification card.
2. A birth certificate.
3. Pertinent pages of a United States valid or expired passport identifying the person and the person's passport number, or the persons United States passport.
4. United States naturalization documents or the number of the certificate of naturalization.
5. Other documents or methods of proof of United States citizenship issued by the federal government pursuant to the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1952, as amended.
6. Bureau of Indian Affairs card number, tribal treaty card number or tribal enrollment number.
7. A consular report of birth abroad of a citizen of the United States of America.
8. A certificate of citizenship issued by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services.
9. A certification of report of birth issued by the United States Department of State.
10. An American Indian card, with KIC classification, issued by the United States Department of Homeland Security.
11. Final adoption decree showing the person's name and United States birthplace.
12. An official United States military record of service showing the applicant's place of birth in the United States.
13. An extract from a United States hospital record of birth created at the time of the person's birth indicating the place of birth in the United States.

A legible photocopy or a copy in digital or other electronic formats of any of the above forms of identification are acceptable under this section of law. For anyone not able to demonstrate

citizenship by one of the above methods, the law provides that an alien's immigration status must be verified through the US Department of Homeland Security in accordance with 8 USC §1373(c).

Documentation must be sent to Katrina Magdon via email kmagdon@anha.org, or mailed to ALBOE of NHA, 4156 Carmichael Road, Montgomery, Alabama, 36106. Should you have any questions or need further information, please do not hesitate to call the Board at (334) 271-2342.

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 are attached.*

FACILITY NEWS

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

Here are some of the articles posted this week:

- Team Spirit Alive and Well at Nursing Homes
- Nursing Homes Celebrate National Nursing Home Week in Unique Ways
- North Alabama Nursing Home Receives High Marks for Quality Care

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

OTHER NEWS

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:

- 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 supervise 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>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Time</u>
May 30	Entry Deadline for Ms. Alabama Nursing Home Pageant		
May 30	ANHA Region IV Act/SS Auxiliary Meeting RSVP: Janice Garrett (256) 362-4197	Golden Corral Oxford	12:00 p.m.
June 16	Seminar: Sexuality in LTC Environment	Hyatt Wynfrey Birmingham	8:30 a.m.
June 20-21	ANHA Senior State Games	BJCC Birmingham	

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>