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 30, 2014

ANHA NEWS

TODAY: Deadline for Ms. Alabama Nursing Home Pageant Entry

TODAY, 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.

Memo: Nursing Home Resident Voting

Editor's Note: This article is taken from a memo sent to ANHA members on May 7.
Alabama has implemented a new voter photo identification law and other changes for the 2014 elections. ANHA's legal counsel has provided information to help your facility ensure that every resident is able to properly exercise his or her right to vote. *Please see the 2014 Voting Update attachment for details.*

Election Schedule:
- Primary Election - June 3, 2014
- Primary Runoff Election - July 15, 2014
- General Election - November 4, 2014

Contact Jackie Ayers at the Association office at jayers@anha.org or (334) 271-6214 if you have questions.

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 Provides Updates on ICD-10

Last week, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) provided updates on the extension of the partial code freeze for ICD-9-CM and ICD-10 that are a result of the recent enactment of the *Protecting Access to Medicare Act of 2014* (PAMA) (Pub. L. No. 113-93), which required CMS to delay implementation of ICD-10 until no earlier than October 1, 2015. Along with this announcement, CMS posted updated 2015 ICD-10-CM, ICD-10-PCS, and ICD-9 files as described in the paragraphs below:

Partial Code Freeze for ICD-9-CM and ICD-10 Extended
The ICD-9-CM Coordination and Maintenance Committee implemented a partial freeze of the ICD-9-CM and ICD-10 (ICD-10-CM and ICD-10-PCS) codes prior to the implementation of ICD-10, which would end one year after the implementation of ICD-10. On April 1, 2014, the PAMA was enacted, which said that the Secretary may not adopt ICD-10 prior to October 1, 2015. Accordingly, HHS expects to release an interim final rule in the near future that will include a new compliance date that would require the use of ICD-10 beginning October 1, 2015. The rule will also require HIPAA covered entities to continue to use ICD-9-CM through September 30, 2015.

The partial code freeze will continue through October 1, 2015, the new planned implementation date. Regular updates to ICD-10 will begin on October 1, 2016, one year after the implementation of ICD-10. See Partial Code Freeze for ICD-9-CM and ICD-10 (http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Coding/ICD10/Downloads/Partial_Code_Freeze.pdf) for more information.

2015 ICD-10-CM, ICD-10-PCS, and ICD-9-CM Files Available
The 2015 ICD-10-CM and ICD-10-PCS files are now posted on the 2015 ICD-10-CM and GEMs web page (http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Coding/ICD10/2015-ICD-10-CM-and-GEMs.html) and 2015 ICD-10-PCS and GEMs web page (http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Coding/ICD10/2015-ICD-10-PCS-and-GEMs.html). There are no new, revised, or deleted ICD-10-CM or ICD-10-PCS codes.

The 2015 ICD-9-CM files are now available on the ICD-9-CM Diagnosis and Procedure Codes: Abbreviated and Full Code Titles web page (http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Coding/ICD9ProviderDiagnosticCodes/codes.html). Since there will be no ICD-9-CM updates, there is no FY 2015 addendum. There are no new, revised, or deleted ICD-9-CM codes.

The 2015 General Equivalence Mappings (GEMs) will be posted later this summer.

CMS Releases Advance Copies of S&C Memo and Interpretive Guidance Related to Use of Pasteurized/Unpasteurized Eggs
The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has issued advance copies of a Survey & Certification Memorandum (S&C Memo) and associated surveyor interpretive guidance at F341, Sanitary Conditions, *which are attached*. The focus of these documents is on use and serving of pasteurized and unpasteurized eggs.

Several key points:
1. A nursing center that uses and serves unpasteurized eggs must ensure the eggs are fully cooked until both the yolk and white are completely firm.
2. If a nursing center uses pasteurized eggs, they may serve them as "soft-cooked", "soft-scrambled", or sunny-side up".
3. The use of signed agreements between the nursing center and a resident/patient (or the resident's/patient's legal representative) releasing the nursing center of liability if the patient/resident becomes ill due to eating unpasteurized eggs prepared by the nursing center that are not cooked until the yolk and white are completely firm are not permitted.

CMS also updated the surveyor guidance to include information related to serving food grown in Nursing Home Gardens, which was in a previously released S&C Memo.

These documents are not yet posted on the CMS Website and due to the Memorial Day holiday may not be posted until sometime next week. The S&C Memo is dated May 20, 2014 and is "Effective Immediately."

PEPPER Reports Now Available

The Q4FY13 release of your new Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) Program for Evaluating Payment Patterns Electronic Report (PEPPER), with statistics through September 2013, is now available for download through the Secure PEPPER Access page at PEPPERresources.org.

To obtain your SNF's PEPPER, the Chief Executive Officer, President or Administrator of your SNF should:
1. Review the Secure PEPPER Access Guide.
2. Visit the Secure PEPPER Access page at PEPPERresources.org.
3. Review the instructions and obtain the information required to authenticate access.
4. Click on the button to Access the Secure Portal.
5. Complete all the fields.
6. Download your PEPPER.

The SNF PEPPER will be available to download as a Microsoft Excel file for approximately one year. The previous Q4FY12 SNF PEPPER, originally released in August 2013, will be made available via the Secure PEPPER Portal in the summer of 2014; an email notification will be sent when these PEPPERs are available.

New for this release in the SNF PEPPER: The "State" comparison group now includes all SNFs in a state. Previously, the "State" comparison group included all SNFs in a state that were in the same MAC jurisdiction. As a result, state percentiles will be available for most SNFs; state percentiles will differ from the previous PEPPER release.

For more information, visit the SNF Training and Resources section of PEPPERresources.org.

About PEPPER

PEPPER is an educational tool that summarizes provider-specific data statistics for Medicare services that may be at risk for improper payments. Providers can use the data to support internal auditing and monitoring activities. Visit PEPPERresources.org to access resources for using PEPPER, including recorded web-based training sessions, a sample SNF PEPPER and the current SNF PEPPER User's Guide, which are available on the SNF "Training and Resources" page. PEPPER is distributed by TMF® Health Quality Institute under contract with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

Do you have questions or comments about PEPPER or need help obtaining your report? Visit our Help Desk to request assistance with PEPPER. Provide your feedback or suggestions regarding PEPPER through our feedback form.

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 participates 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 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 posted on ANHA's news website: news.anha.org.

Here are some of the articles posted this week:
- Northeast Alabama Nursing Home Scores High on Recent Inspection
- National Nursing Home Week: Final Photo Gallery

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

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 (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.)

Name	*Effective Date*
Haley Cook	5/22/14

Product Recall – Adult Portable Bed Handles
Please note that if your facilities use these portable "slip under the mattress" bed, they have been found to pose a significant risk for death in our elderly population. Please see the Consumer Product Safety warning attached below.

http://www.cpsc.gov/en/Recalls/2014/Adult-Portable-Bed-Handles-Recalled-by-Bed-Handles-Inc/

AHRQ Publishes New Infection Control Toolkit on KPC
The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) has published a toolkit to help hospitals control and prevent Klebsiella pneumoniae carbapenemase (KPC), a highly dangerous, antibiotic-resistant germ. AHRQ funded leading KPC researchers to develop the toolkit, which hospitals can use to control and prevent KPC outbreaks in their facilities.

AHRQ's toolkit, "Carbapenem-Resistant Enterobacteriaceae (CRE) Control and Prevention Toolkit," helps organizations implement guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), which define what health care organizations should do to prevent KPC. The toolkit is available at www.ahrq.gov/cretoolkit.

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 (**Inter**ventions to **R**educe **A**cute **C**are **T**ransfers) 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.

AHCA/NCAL Announces Convention General Session Keynotes

This year's AHCA/NCAL Annual Convention speaker lineup includes a national military commander and a heroic ship captain who inspired an Academy Award-nominated film. To hear them, sign up for the AHCA/NCAL 65th Annual Convention & Expo.

General Colin L. Powell (Ret.) is the Opening General Session keynote speaker. For over 50 years, he has devoted his life to public service. His deep commitment to democratic values and freedom has been felt throughout the world. Powell has received numerous military awards and decorations, as well as multiple civil awards including two Presidential Medals of Freedom, the President's Citizens Medal, the Congressional Gold Medal and the Secretary of Energy Distinguished Service Medal. In addition, he has received awards from over two dozen countries that include a French Legion of Honor and an honorary knighthood bestowed by H.M. Queen Elizabeth II of Great Britain. Hear what Powell has to say and get inspired.

Captain Richard Phillips, who came to national attention in April 2009 when Somali pirates hijacked his ship, will address attendees during the AHCA/NCAL Closing General Session & Awards Celebration. In April 2009, the world watched as Captain Richard Phillips became the center of an extraordinary international drama. A small gang of Somali pirates hijacked his ship, the *Maersk Alabama*, and ultimately, Phillips made a conscious decision to put himself in harm's way to save his 20-member crew by offering himself as a hostage. The drama that played out over the next five days kept American audiences glued to their television sets. His address will bring out the leadership and selfless qualities in each of us, and provide you with a renewed sense of purpose and energy to take back with you.

Register at www.AHCAconvention.org or www.NCALconvention.org. Early bird registration ends July 18.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Date	*Event*	*Location*	*Time*
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 4	ANHA Region VI Act/SS Auxiliary Meeting RSVP: Shonda Young (256) 329-0868, syoung@hmrvsi.com Guest speaker; lunch & CEUs provided	Orchard HealthCare Hayneville	11:00 a.m.
June 16	Seminar: Sexuality in LTC Environment	Hyatt Wynfrey Birmingham	8:30 a.m.
June 20-21	ANHA Senior State Games	Birmingham	

Alabama Nursing Home Association
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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