



Weekly Roundup

...Reporting the state and national long term care news

Please disseminate relevant information to the appropriate department.

qAdministration qNursing qDietary qActivities q Social Services
qRehabilitation qHousekeeping q Maintenance q Laundry

Thursday, July 3, 2014

ANHA NEWS

ANHA Office Schedule

ANHA's Office will close Thursday, July 3 at 12:00 p.m. in observance of Independence Day. The office will re-open at 8:00 a.m. on Monday, July 7.

Ms. Alabama Nursing Home Pageant Top 10 Announcement July 10

The top 10 finalists for the 2014 Ms. Alabama Nursing Home Pageant will be announced Thursday, July 10 at 10:00 a.m. on ANHA's website: www.anha.org. Be the first to know by visiting our website.

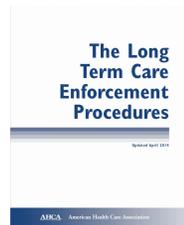
ANHA will post profile stories of the top 10 finalists each weekday leading up to the pageant on www.anha.org. Check back daily so you can get to know each contestant before the pageant on Monday, July 28.

Room Reservations at Hyatt Regency Birmingham – The Wynfrey Hotel for Pageant

ANHA has negotiated discounted room rates for the pageant. Call the Hyatt – Wynfrey at 205-705-1234 or 800-233-1234 to make reservations. Mention the 2014 Ms. Alabama Nursing Home Pageant or group code G-ALNH.

- \$131.00 – overnight – single/double standard guest room
- \$107.00 – day rate – single/double standard guest room

New Edition of LTC Enforcement Procedures Now Available



The updated April 2014 edition of *The Long Term Care Enforcement Procedures* manual is now available. ANHA has copies available at discounted price. The April 2014 edition replaces the old edition from October 2010. *Please see the attached product order form to purchase your copy.*

Online Registration Open for “Clinical Risk Management” Seminar



Please join ANHA on July 21, 2014, as we present an educational seminar regarding clinical risk management issues affecting Alabama nursing homes. The purpose of the seminar is to support participants to: identify risk, evaluate

rules and regulations related to risk, discuss resident choice vs. safety balance in process, and to take a systemic approach to management and documentation. This seminar will be held at the Hyatt Regency - Wynfrey Hotel in Birmingham. The seminar, sponsored by Omnicare, will begin at 8:30 a.m. and conclude at 4:30 p.m. This seminar is approved for 6 hours of continuing education for nursing home administrators. It is approved for 7.2 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.*

Presenters Announced for Alabama's Best Practices

The presenters for the 2014 Alabama's Best Practices Program were announced earlier this week on news.anha.org. Congratulations to the following facilities:

"Music & Memory"	Oak Trace Care & Rehab Center
"Daily Shift Huddle"	Cullman Health & Rehab Center
"Dr. Feel Good"	Hanceville Nursing and Rehab Center
"Juggle Flavors"	Folsom Center for Rehabilitation & Healthcare
"Dementia Assessment and Management"	Athens Rehabilitation Center & Senior Care
"Flip This Room"	Thomasville Health Care
"Road to Quality Improvement"	Falkville Healthcare Center & Rehab
"Party with Purpose"	Fair Haven Retirement Center

The Alabama's Best Practices Program will be held on August 28, 2014, at the Cahaba Grand Conference Center in Birmingham.

Participants will also receive information from sixteen other facilities about their Best Practices. Approval for six (6) hours of continuing education credit are pending for administrators, nurses, risk managers, assisted living administrators, social workers and activity professionals. *Look for more details to follow in the coming weeks.*

NATIONAL NEWS

Feds Release New Manual: Protecting Residents from Financial Exploitation

The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) released a guide to protecting residents from financial exploitation to equip long term care facility staff with the know-how to prevent and spot the warning signs of elder financial abuse. *A copy of the manual is attached.* ANHA advises you to familiarize yourself with Alabama's laws regarding reporting misappropriation of resident property and/or consult your legal counsel.

CFPB's guide gives facility staff the tools to:

- **Prevent** financial exploitation and scams by educating staff, residents and family members about warning signs and precautions
- **Recognize, record and report** financial abuse as early as possible using a model protocol and a team approach
- **Get help** from first responders in the community.

As a reminder, ANHA advises you to familiarize yourself with Alabama's laws regarding reporting misappropriation of resident property and/or consult your legal counsel.

CMS Booklet Updated

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) "Items and Services That Are Not Covered Under the Medicare Program" Booklet (ICN 906765) was revised and is now available in downloadable (http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNProducts/Downloads/Items_and_Services_Not_Covered_Under_Medicare_Booklet/ICN906765.pdf) and hard copy format. This booklet is designed to provide education on non-covered items and services. It includes information about the four categories of items and services that are not covered under the Medicare Program and applicable exceptions (items and services that may be covered) and Beneficiary Notices of Non-coverage.

OSHA Issues Pamphlet on Safe Patient Handling

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) recently issued a new Safe Patient Handling brochure (<https://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3708.pdf>). The brochure emphasizes safe patient handling in nursing centers, but the techniques are relevant to other care-giving locations. It is important to note that long term care (including nursing centers and residential care) is included in the OSHA National Emphasis Program and a specific area of concern is Ergonomics: MSD Risk Factors Relating to Resident Handling.

CMS Provider Relations Coordinator

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) recently announced the establishment of a Provider Relations Coordinator to help increase program transparency and offer more efficient resolutions to providers affected by the medical review process (http://www.cms.gov/Research-Statistics-Data-and-Systems/Monitoring-Programs/Medicare-FFS-Compliance-Programs/Recovery-Audit-Program/Recent_Updates.html).

The Provider Relations Coordinator's purpose is to improve communication between providers and CMS. While providers should continue to take questions about specific claims directly to the Recovery Auditor or Medicare Administrative Contractor (MAC) who conducted the review, providers can raise larger process issues to the Coordinator. For example, if a provider believes that a Recovery Auditor is failing to comply with the documentation request limits or has a pattern of not issuing review results letters in a timely manner, CMS encourages providers to contact the Provider Relations Coordinator. Prior to the establishment of this new CMS initiative, AHCA members often contacted AHCA staff to help facilitate an escalation of their medical review issues with CMS. Hopefully this new process will help streamline the resolution of such issues.

CMS indicated that providers can also send suggestions about how to improve the Recovery Auditor or MAC medical review process to the CMS Provider Relations Coordinator.

The CMS Provider Relations Coordinator is Latesha Walker, and she can be contacted at:

- RAC@cms.hhs.gov for Recovery Auditor review process concerns/suggestions
- MedicareMedicalReview@cms.hhs.gov for MAC review process concerns/suggestions

STATE NEWS

Electronic Plan of Correction Update from Alabama Dept. of Public Health

As of July 1, 2014, the Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) has 156 facilities enabled and activated to use the ePOC (electronic plans of correction). ADPH appreciates the providers that have been so responsive to its request to get enabled and activated.

Although that is more than half of the certified nursing home providers, there are still 66 certified nursing homes that have not signed up. Please do so as soon as possible. If you need assistance with signing up, please contact Pamela Carpenter, RN, or Mia Sadler, RN, at 334-206-5111.

Medicaid Reimbursement Update

The Alabama Nursing Home Association (ANHA) recently sent a letter to the Alabama Medicaid Agency in regards to the disallowance of subscription agreement membership fees (usually between \$150 and \$250 per month) with various software vendors that provide electronic referral services to the Provider. These subscription agreements are necessary for facilities to communicate with hospital-based online referral systems in regards to discharge planning. ANHA has received word from the Medicaid that these subscription fees will be allowable under the operating cost center beginning with cost reports that end June 30, 2014.

Updated COLA Fact Sheet

Attached is a revised COLA Fact sheet prepared by ANHA Associate Member Healthcare Compensation Solutions. It reflects the increase in the Spousal Impoverishment limit beginning July 1, 2014. For those of you who have residents who have income allocated to the community spouse, the liability amount will likely go down in July due to the increase in the spousal limit. If the community spouse has not had an increase in the amount of his/her income, the decrease in the liability amount for the community spouse should be \$27.00. You should receive a liability change notice from your Medicaid worker in the near future.

Alabama Medicaid 1115 Demonstration Request Posted on CMS Website

Alabama has submitted a new section 1115 demonstration proposal to implement the state's proposed model of accountable care organizations; to be called "regional care organizations" (RCOs). The RCOs are proposed to improve care coordination and outcomes and ensure the long-term sustainability of Alabama's Medicaid program. This new approach to care will also further develop the use of health homes.

The Public Comment Period is now open. You may comment until 11:00 p.m., July 16, 2014, using CMS's questionnaire at

<https://public.medicaid.gov/connect.ti/public.comments/viewQuestionnaire?qid=1859715>

A list of all waiver documents are available at:

<http://www.medicaid.gov/Medicaid-CHIP-Program-Information/By-Topics/Waivers/Waivers.html>

Information on the 1115 Demonstration application is also available at:

http://medicaid.alabama.gov/CONTENT/2.0_newsroom/2.7.3.3_1115_Waiver.aspx

Alabama Medicaid Agency – ICD-10 Update

On April 1, 2014, the Protecting Access to Medicare Act of 2014 (PAMA) (Pub. L. No. 113-93) was enacted, which said that the Secretary may not adopt ICD-10 prior to October 1, 2015.

Although implementation has been delayed, Alabama Medicaid urges the providers and vendors to use the ICD-10 delay to maximize your readiness. The extra time created by the delay, will give you the opportunity to test with Alabama Medicaid and other payers. Medicaid testing is open to all providers and vendors. Please visit the Medicaid website for more information on ICD-10 and testing with the Alabama Medicaid Agency.

http://www.medicaid.alabama.gov/CONTENT/6.0_Providers/6.12_ICD-10/6.12_ICD-10.aspx

Contact Info for Alabama’s New Case Review Contractor

Effective August 1, 2014, all Alabama beneficiary quality review case work and appeals will be conducted by the new BFCC-QIO:

KePRO

Rock Run Center, Suite 100

5700 Lombardo Center Dr.

Seven Hills, OH 44131

Toll-free Beneficiary Helpline: 1-844-430-9504

Providers and stakeholders who would like more information from KEPRO during the transition can call the Provider Helpline toll-free at 1-800-385-5080.

AQAF will continue to perform quality review work until July 31, 2014, at which time the responsibility will be assumed by KePRO. If a patient’s case is currently under review or in process, please be assured that every effort will be made to ensure a seamless transition for Medicare beneficiaries with no disruption in case review services.

After the transition AQAF will focus its efforts on quality improvement initiatives in Alabama. Questions about the transition can be addressed to Cynthia McIntosh at 205-970-1600, ext 3506, or cynthia.mcintosh@hcqis.org.

More information on the QIO Program can be found at QIOProgram.org or by contacting 1-800-MEDICARE.

Background

CMS restructured the QIO Program from its historical 53 contracts, in which each QIO performs both case review and quality improvement support for each state or territory, to a regional structure for case review and an industry-determined service structure for quality improvement initiatives.

In the new structure, case review and quality improvement functions are performed by different contractors, the contract periods are extended from three to five years, and there is enhanced focus on learning, collaboration, and the dissemination of best practices. Now, one group of QIOs [Beneficiary and Family Centered Care (BFCC-QIO)] will handle complaints, while another group [Quality Improvement Network (QIN-QIO)], will provide technical assistance to support providers and suppliers.

Alabama Medicaid Agency Update – MDS Section Q

A streamlined process for making MDS-Q referrals, with reduced paperwork, is coming soon. Online and face-to-face training will be offered mid-summer. During the next few weeks, your Local Contact Agency, Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services, will begin re-directing new referrals to the Gateway to Community Living office at the Alabama Medicaid Agency. Starting the week of June 9th, providers will be able to enter referrals into the online system. A dedicated staff person, Ann Duncan (Clairann.Duncan@medicaid.alabama.gov), will be available Monday through Friday at 334-353-3273 to respond to all referrals and provide assistance. For more information, go to the Gateway to Community Living http://www.medicaid.alabama.gov/CONTENT/4.0_Programs/4.3.0_LTC/4.3.5_Gateway_To_Living.aspx page on the Medicaid website.

Medicaid Preferred Drug List Update

Effective July 1, 2014, the Alabama Medicaid Agency will:

1. Require prior authorization for payment of the below listed generics. The equivalent brand will be preferred with no PA.
 - Use Dispense as Written (DAW) Code of 9 for these brand name products. DAW Code of 9 indicates the following: Substitution Allowed by Prescriber but Plan Requests Brand – Patient’s Plan Requested Brand Product to be Dispensed.

Generic	Brand Name
Lidoderm	Lidocaine Topical Patch
Dexmethylphenidate HCL	Focalin
Trospium Chloride	Sanctura
Diazepam Rectal Kit	Diastat Diastat
Modafinil	Provigil
Levalbuterol Inhalation	Xopenex Inhalation Solution

2. Update the Preferred Drug List (PDL) to reflect the quarterly updates. The updates are listed below:

PDL Additions	
Azelastine HCL	EENT Preparations/Antiallergic Agents
Diastat	Behavioral Health/Benzodiazepines
Diastat Acudial	Behavioral Health/Benzodiazepines
Elidel	Skin and Mucous Membrane/Miscellaneous
Focalin	Behavioral Health/Cerebral Stimulants- Agents used for ADHD
Lidoderm	Skin and Mucous Membrane/Antipruritics and Local Anesthetics
Mentax	Skin and Mucous Membrane/Antifungals
Provigil	Behavioral Health/Wakefulness Promoting Agents

Sanctura	Genitourinary Agents/Genitourinary Smooth Muscle Relaxants
Sklice	Skin and Mucous Membrane/Scabicides and Pediculicides
Strattera	Behavioral Health/Cerebral Stimulants- Agents used for ADHD
Ulesfia	Skin and Mucous Membrane/Scabicides and Pediculicides
Xopenex Inhalation Solution	Respiratory/Selective Beta-2 Adrenergic Agonists
Zovirax (cream only)	Skin and Mucous Membrane/Antivirals

PDL Deletions	
Advair	Respiratory/Orally Inhaled Corticosteroids
Advair HFA	Respiratory/Orally Inhaled Corticosteroids
Astelin	EENT Preparations/Antiallergic Agents
Dexmethylphenidate HCL (generic Focalin)	Behavioral Health/Cerebral Stimulants- Agents used for ADHD
Diazepam Rectal Kit (generic Diastat) (generic Diastat Acudial)	Behavioral Health/Benzodiazepines
Levalbuterol Inhalation Solution (generic Xopenex)	Respiratory/Selective Beta-2 Adrenergic Agonists
Lidocaine Topical Patch (generic Lidoderm)	Skin and Mucous Membrane/ Antipruritics and Local Anesthetics
Modafinil	Behavioral Health/ Wakefulness Promoting Agents
Trospium Chloride (generic Sanctura)	Genitourinary Agents/ Genitourinary Smooth Muscle Relaxants
Zovirax (ointment only)	Skin and Mucous Membrane/Antivirals

For additional PDL and coverage information, visit the Medicaid drug look-up site at <https://www.medicaid.alabamaservices.org/ALPortal/NDC%20Look%20Up/tabId/39/Default.aspx>.

The PA request form and criteria booklet, as well as a link for a PA request form that can be completed and submitted electronically online, can be found on the Agency's website at www.medicaid.alabama.gov and should be utilized by the prescribing physician or the dispensing pharmacy when requesting a PA. Providers requesting PAs by mail or fax should send requests to:

Health Information Designs (HID)
Medicaid Pharmacy Administrative Services
P. O. Box 3210 Auburn, AL 36832-3210
Fax: 1-800-748-0116
Phone: 1-800-748-0130

Incomplete PA requests or those failing to meet Medicaid criteria will be denied. If the prescribing physician believes medical justification should be considered, the physician must document this on the form or submit a written letter of medical justification along with the prior authorization form to HID. Additional information may be requested. Staff physicians will review this information.

Policy questions concerning this provider notice should be directed to the Pharmacy Program at (334) 242-5050. Questions regarding prior authorization procedures should be directed to the HID help desk at 1-800-748-0130.

FACILITY NEWS

Facility News is posted on anha.org.

Articles posted this week include:

- Birmingham nursing home advances quality, resident develop new activities

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

OTHER NEWS

AQAF Outcomes Congress July 8

AQAF is holding an Outcomes Congress on July 8 to celebrate and recognize the many successes of nursing homes and other providers during the QIO program's 10th Scope of Work that ends on July 31. The Outcomes Congress will be held at the Cahaba Grand Conference Center in Birmingham. The featured guest will be Dr. Paul McGann, Partnership for Patients and Deputy Chief Medical Officer for Campaign Leadership in the CMS Innovation Center. CEUs will be provided. Attendance is limited and registration is required. Visit: <http://aqaf.com/event.php?event=2014-07-08-outcomes-congress>

Alabama Medical Directors Association Annual Conference

The Alabama Medical Directors Association (AMDA) will hold its Annual Conference July 24 – July 27, in Sandestin, Florida. AMDA is the professional association of physicians and other professionals practicing in the long-term care continuum, dedicated to excellence in patient care by providing education, advocacy, information and professional development. Topics will include: “The Art & Science of a Good Family Conference”; “It’s Okay to Die”; “Various Documentation Requirements for Physicians in the LTC Setting”; “GI Issues in LTC/Treating Conditions in the NF that Were Previously Sent to the Hospital”; “Principles of Consolidated

Billing”; “Hospice-What, When & How You Can Help”; “COPD in LTC Residents”; “Evaluation & Treatment of Geriatric Swallowing Disorders”; “Recent Changes In the Medicaid Program and How They Affect the LTC Facilities”; “How to Detect, Treat and Report Public Outbreaks of Communicable Diseases”; “Pain Management in LTC Residents”; and “Parkinson’s Disease: Voice & Swallowing Disorders”. Please contact Lee Ann Cole with the AMDA at 334-213-8803 alternate phone; 334-315-2442 cell phone; 334-213-8815 fax; or e-mail Lee Ann Cole at Lcole1019@aol.com for more information.

AHCA Gala Dinner & Show to Feature Pat Benatar & Neil “Spyder” Giraldo

During the AHCA/NCAL Convention & Expo, be sure to make your plans to stay for this year’s Gala Dinner and Show, featuring rock and roll stars Pat Benatar and Neil “Spyder” Giraldo. The Gala is an opportunity to celebrate, network with new friends, and have an evening full of fun!

Pat Benatar has always been a rule breaker and a trailblazer. After three decades of rock ‘n’ roll, she’s a bonafide living legend. Neil “Spyder” Giraldo’s vision and steel-bending guitar playing has helped his wife Pat shape her signature sound. Together, they promise a show you will remember for a long, long time. Enjoy such hits as “Love is a Battlefield,” “Hit Me With Your Best Shot,” “Heartbreaker,” “Promises in the Dark,” and “We Belong.”

The performance by Pat Benatar and Neil Giraldo is a separate ticketed event, and tickets will go fast. Please plan ahead and make sure you’re a part of this memorable evening! This event is black-tie optional.

Early bird registration for this year’s AHCA/NCAL Convention & Expo continues through July 18. Register today for the maximum savings. For information or to register, visit www.AHCAconvention.org or www.NCALconvention.org

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<i><u>Date</u></i>	<i><u>Event</u></i>	<i><u>Location</u></i>	<i><u>Time</u></i>
July 8	ANHA Region III Act/SS Auxiliary Meeting RSVP: Barbara Johnson 205-328-5810 Speaker Topic: Hospice Volunteers in SNFs	Northway Health & Rehab Birmingham	12:30 p.m.
July 11	ANHA Region VII Act/SS Auxiliary Meeting RSVP: Jo Ann Smyly 251-636-3614 or 251-637-3239	Felix’s Fish Camp Mobile	11:30 a.m.
July 16	ANHA Region IX Act/SS Auxiliary Meeting RSVP: Debra Dixon 205-932-1173 debra.dixon@dchhealthsystem.com	Fayette Med. Ctr. LTC Fayette	12:00 p.m.

July 17	ANHA Region III Meeting RSVP: Kevin Ball 205-788-6330 kball@ballhealth.com Lunch will be provided	Todd English P.U.B. Birmingham	12:00 p.m.
July 21	Seminar: Clinical Risk Management	Hyatt Wynfrey Birmingham	8:30 a.m.
July 25	ANHA Executive Board Meeting	Hilton Sandestin Sandestin	10:00 a.m.
July 28	Ms. Alabama Nursing Home Pageant	Hyatt Wynfrey 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>