



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

Friday, July 11, 2014

ANHA NEWS

Top 10 Finalists for Ms. Alabama Nursing Home Pageant

The top 10 finalists for the 2014 Ms. Alabama Nursing Home Pageant were announced Thursday morning on www.anha.org. Visit the website for more info about each contestant.

ANHA will post profile stories of the top 10 finalists each weekday, July 14-25, leading up to the pageant on www.anha.org. Check back daily so you can get to know each contestant.

From the field of 58 contestants, the following ladies were selected the top 10 finalists:

- Ms. Arbor Springs Health & Rehab Center, Edna Farrell, Opelika, Age 89
- Ms. Burns Nursing & Rehab, Jewel Arrington, Russellville, Age 67
- Ms. Crowne Health Care of Mobile, Dorothy Young, Mobile, Age 63
- Ms. Cullman Long Term Care & Rehab Center, Lillian Mitchell, Cullman, Age 94
- Ms. Cypress Cove Center, Tommie Dimps, Muscle Shoals, Age 56
- Ms. El Reposo Nursing Facility, Carolyn Thigpen, Florence, Age 92
- Ms. Florence Nursing & Rehab, Margaret Herston, Florence, Age 80
- Ms. Henry County Health & Rehab Facility, Sarah Glover, Abbeville, Age 82
- Ms. Highlands at the Oaks on Parkwood, JoAnn Okechukwu, Bessemer, Age 67
- Ms. Woodland Village Health Care Center, Cloie Kelley, Cullman, Age 79

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

Pageant Day is Monday, July 28

The 2014 Ms. Alabama Nursing Home Pageant will take place on Monday, July 28 at the Hyatt Regency Birmingham – The Wynfrey Hotel in Birmingham. The day begins at 9:30 a.m. with a reception featuring live entertainment and refreshments for all contestants, families and nursing home staff. At 2:00 p.m., the top ten finalists will take the stage to compete for the title of Ms. Alabama Nursing Home. Admission is free and the event is open to the public. Everyone is encouraged to attend and support these ladies as they compete for the coveted crown.

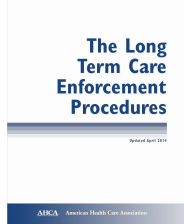
Each contestant will receive a special pin, corsage, a bag full of goodies and more. All contestants are encouraged to attend the pageant because they will be individually recognized.

Professional Portrait Photographer

A professional photographer will be on hand to take portraits and group pictures. Please bring a check or cash if you are interested in purchasing pictures. Checks should be made payable to Focus Photography. Prices are below.

- Package #1: \$35.00 – Includes 2-5x7s and 8-wallets
- Package #2: \$45.00 – Includes 1-8x10 and 2-5x7's
- Package #3: \$75.00 – Includes 2-8x10s, 2-5x7s and 8-wallets
- Additional Prints will also be available for the following costs: \$20.00 additional 8x10 portrait, \$15.00 additional 5x7 portrait, \$10.00 eight (8) additional wallets

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.*

Alabama’s Best Practices Presenters

Congratulations to the following facilities for being select to present at the 2014 Alabama’s Best Practices Program.

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|--------------------------------------|---|
| “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 next week.*

NATIONAL NEWS

New Medicare Advantage Coding Requirement

Effective July 1, Medicare Advantage plans must submit HIPPS/RUGs codes on all of their SNF claims to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), regardless of whether or not provider payment is based on RUGs. The American Health Care Association (AHCA) has prepared a brief 2-page overview/FAQs outlining what they know to date. AHCA will keep a close watch out for any issues related to delays or disruptions in payment as a result of this requirement. AHCA will want to address these directly with CMS as quickly as possible. *Please see the attached document for more information.*

Settlement Conference Facilitation Pilot May Help with Medicare Part B Backlog

The U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services, Office of Medicare Hearings and Appeals (OMHA) has just announced a new pilot, Settlement Conference Facilitation, which it hopes will alleviate some of the significant backlog of Medicare Part B claims being appealed to the Administrative law Judge (ALJ) level.

Settlement Conference Facilitation is an alternate dispute resolution process, designed to bring providers and CMS together to negotiate and settle some Medicare Part B disputes (*e.g.*, only those appeals of Medicare Part B Qualified Independent Contractor [QIC] disputes) with the help of a settlement conference facilitator. The facilitator will be an employee of OMHA, who will use mediation principles to help the parties come to a "mutually agreeable resolution." The facilitator will not make official determinations on the merits of the claims; but instead will help all the parties "see the relative strengths and weaknesses of their positions." If a resolution can be reached, a settlement document will be drafted to reflect the agreement, and the document will be signed by all the parties. As part of the agreement, any provider requests for an ALJ hearing for the claims covered by the settlement will be dismissed.

To obtain more information and learn about eligibility and the process to request Settlement Conference Facilitation go to the HHS/OMHA web site at http://www.hhs.gov/omha/settlement_conference_facilitation_pilot.html.

Top Ten Frequently Asked Questions About Remittance Advice

The Medicare Learning Network's "Top Ten Frequently Asked Questions About Remittance Advice" fact sheet is now available in downloadable format. This fact sheet is designed to provide education on the remittance advice. It includes the top 10 questions health care

professionals most frequently ask about the remittance advice. http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNProducts/Downloads/RAFAQ_FactSheet_ICN908330.pdf

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.

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.

FACILITY NEWS

Facility News is posted on anha.org.

Articles posted this week include:

- 19 Nursing Homes Recognized for Quality Improvement
- Top 10 Finalists for Ms. Alabama Nursing Home Pageant

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

OTHER NEWS

Free Alzheimer's Training for Nursing Homes

A free seminar is available to Alabama nursing homes. Alzheimer's Education, Resources and Services is offering every nursing home two free registrations to attend the 12th Annual Alzheimer's Professional & Caregiver Conference on August 1 in Montgomery. This is a great opportunity to further your understanding of Alzheimer's while earning CEUs. *Please see the attached flyer for more details.*

Area Agencies on Aging Offering Free Benefits & Insurance Training

Alabama Area Agencies on Aging are offering free training titled: Legal, Public Benefits, and Health Insurance Issues for Seniors and Persons with Disabilities. CEUs will be provided for nursing home and assisted living administrators, social workers, nurses and attorneys.

See the attachment for more information. To register call the numbers below.

- Friday, July 18, Montgomery, 334-240-4666
- Tuesday, July 29, Mobile, 251-433-6541
- Thursday, July 31, Fairhope, 251-433-6541
- Wednesday, August 13, Oxford, 256-237-6741
- Thursday, August 14, Decatur, 256-355-4515
- Thursday, August 28, Thomasville, 334-682-5206

- Thursday, September 11, Tuscaloosa, 205-333-2990

AHCA Webinar on Affordable Care Act

A key aspect of implementing the employer shared responsibility requirements under the Affordable Care Act (ACA) is understanding whether each of your employees is full-time or not under the law. This calculation is important in determining whether an employer is a large employer and may be subject to penalties under the law. It is also essential in determining how significant the liability for those penalties may be.

In this upcoming American Health Care Association webinar, Nicole Fallon of CliftonLarsonAllen will explain how an employer can determine whether an employee is full-time or not using both the monthly measurement and a look-back measurement period safe harbor. You will have the opportunity to get your questions answered.

Understanding and Assessing Employee's Full-Time Status Under the ACA
Wednesday, July 16, 2014 at 1:00 p.m. CT

Learning Objectives:

1. Review two options for determining employee status (full-time vs. part-time)
2. Discuss pros and cons of using one method versus the other
3. Receive a better understanding of determining whether an employee is full-time or not using both the monthly measurement and a look-back measurement period safe harbor

To register, visit: <http://webinars.ahcancal.org/session.php?id=13767>

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 Convention & Expo Early Bird Registration Ends Next Friday

Early bird registration for the AHCA/NCAL 65th Annual Convention & Expo ends next Friday, July 18. Don’t wait—[register today](#) and get the maximum discount available. Join thousands of long term and post-acute care professionals at [National Harbor](#) on the banks of the Potomac River, just outside Washington, D.C., October 5-8.

The AHCA/NCAL Convention & Expo offers more than [60 education sessions](#) with top-rated speakers from the field and from academia, special constituency events for targeted learning, plenty of networking opportunities, and one of the largest Expos supporting your special business needs. Our keynote speakers this year include Colin L. Powell, U.S.A. (Ret.), and Captain Richard Phillips. Pat Benatar and Neil "Spyder" Giraldo will headline the [Gala Dinner & Show!](#) Enjoy all this as well as access to the historic surroundings of our nation's capital.

Visit the official Convention & Expo [website](#) for a complete schedule of events, registration, [tours](#), and all the information you need to make the most of your convention experience. The early bird deadline is just days away so complete your registration now and save.

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 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 18	ANHA Region VII Meeting Sponsor: Senior Care Pharmacy RSVP: Gail McInnish 251-937-3501, gail.mcinnish@infirmarhealth.org	Felix's Fish Camp Mobile	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>