



# 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 25, 2014*

## ANHA NEWS

### **ANHA Office Schedule**

The ANHA Office will be closed Monday, July 28 due to the Ms. Alabama Nursing Home Pageant. The office will re-open at 8:00 a.m. on Tuesday, July 29.

### **Ms. Alabama Nursing Home Pageant**

#### *Schedule*

Here's the schedule for the Ms. Alabama Nursing Home Pageant on Monday, July 28:

- 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. – Contestant Registration
- 9:30 – 11:00 a.m.
  - Reception with live entertainment and free food – everyone invited
  - Professional photographer available – see more info below
  - Contestant hair and makeup assistance
- 9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. – Contestant dressing room available
- 11:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. – Lunch on you own
- 1:30 p.m. – Doors open for pageant seating
- 2:00 p.m. – Pageant begins – free admission, open to public

#### *Social Media*

ANHA will provide live updates from the pageant via Twitter. Follow us @ANHATweets or search #MSNH14. We will also post updates on our website [www.anha.org](http://www.anha.org). Also, the pageant winner and runners-up will be announced first on Twitter and our website.

#### *Get to Know Top 10 Finalists for Ms. Alabama Nursing Home Pageant*

Visit [www.anha.org](http://www.anha.org) learn more about each top 10 finalists for the 2014 Ms. Alabama Nursing Home Pageant. The stories detail how each lady is making a positive impact in her community.

Here are the articles posted this week:

- [Orphans Feel Warmth of Nursing Home Resident's Love](#)
- [Making New Friends in Her New Home](#)
- [Finding Strength in Faith](#)
- [Inspiring Woman Never Gives Up on Her Goals](#)
- [Adjusting to Life's Changes](#)

### ***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

### **CNA and Employee Recognition at Alabama's Best Practices**

Alabama's Best Practices will continue the tradition of recognizing Certified Nursing Assistants and other outstanding staff members for their contributions to the high quality of care our residents receive and the successful operation of our nursing homes. The deadline for submission is August 20. *Please see the attached form for additional information.* If you have questions, contact John Matson at the Association office at (334) 271-6214 or [jmatson@anha.org](mailto:jmatson@anha.org).

### **Registration Open for Alabama's Best Practices**

Registration is now open for Alabama's Best Practices 2014. The event will be held on August 28, 2014, at the Cahaba Grand Conference Center in Birmingham. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn innovation nursing home practices from your colleagues. Attendees 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. *Please see the attached flyer for more information.*

## **NATIONAL NEWS**

### **Medicare Part D and Hospice Update**

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) released interim guidance intended to address the highly problematic May 1 Guidance on Part D and hospice drug coverage. *See attached documents for the new, interim guidance.*

### **Advance Guidance: Revisions to State Operations Manual (SOM), Appendix PP- Guidance to Surveyors for Long-Term Care (LTC) Facilities & Chapter 4**

Revisions to Appendix PP of the SOM: The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has revised the Interpretive Guidelines and, where appropriate, Investigative Protocols for the following F Tags to incorporate Survey & Certification (S&C) policy memos issued from October 2003 through May 2014. Specifically, the guidelines have been updated for the following F Tags: F161 - Assurance of Financial Security F202 - Documentation for Transfer and Discharge F208 - Admission Policy F221 - Physical Restraints F278 - Accuracy of Assessment/Coordination/Certification/Penalty for Falsification F281 - Services Provided Meet Professional Standards of Quality F286 - Maintaining 15 Months of Resident Assessments (Use) F332 - Medication Errors/Free of Medication Errors of 5% or Greater F333 - Medication Errors/Residents are Free of Significant Medication Errors F371 – Sanitary Conditions F387 -

Frequency of Physician Visits/Timeliness of Visits F388 - Personal Visits by the Physician F390 - Physician Delegation of Tasks in SNFs/Performance of Physician Tasks in NFs F425 - Pharmacy Services F428 - Drug Regimen Review F431 - Service Consultation/Labeling of Drugs and Biologicals/Storage of Drugs and Biologicals F441 - Infection Control F492 - Compliance with Federal, State and local laws and Professional Standards F514 - Clinical Records F516 - Resident Identifiable Information/Safeguard against loss, destruction, or unauthorized use • Revisions to SOM Chapter 4: Section 4132.1E Waiver of Program Prohibition has been revised to incorporate information consistent with CFR 483.151(c)(1). Section 4542.2 State Agency (SA) Expenses for Training of SA Personnel has been revised to include Association of Health Facility Survey Agencies (AHFSA) to the list of annual meetings. These changes are effective immediately.

*A copy of the S&C letter is attached. It is approximately 376 pages.*

*Please note that a NEW July 2014 edition of the LTC Survey Guide will be released in the coming weeks. ANHA will be have it for sale. This new edition will incorporate these changes.*

### **Medicare Signature Requirements Article Released by CMS**

MLN Matters® Special Edition Article #SE1419, “Medicare Signature Requirements - Educational Resources for Health Care Professionals” has been released and can be found at <http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNMattersArticles/Downloads/SE1419.pdf>. This article is designed to provide education on the availability of resources related to signature requirements for Medicare-covered services. It includes a variety of educational products along with a brief description, and additional information.

### **CMS Updates “Medicare Overpayment Collection Process Fact Sheet”**

The “Medicare Overpayment Collection Process” Fact Sheet (ICN 006379) was revised and can be found at <http://cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNProducts/Downloads/OverpaymentBrochure508-09.pdf>.

The fact sheet is designed to provide education on the collection of Medicare provider and supplier overpayments. It includes the definition of an overpayment, an overview of the overpayment collection process, timeframes for the debt collection process for provider overpayments and additional resources.

### **Access 2014 PEPPER Reports Now**

As reported previously, the 2014 release of the Program for Evaluating Payment Patterns Electronic Report (PEPPER) for skilled nursing facilities (SNFs) has been available for [download](#) through the secure access page at <http://PEPPERresources.org> since May 5, 2014. As of June 30th, however, only 7,363 (49%) of the 14,961 SNF PEPPERs have been accessed.

By way of background, 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. We encourage all its members to obtain the report and evaluate and compare its contents to the data from 2013.

To obtain more information go to <http://PEPPERresources.org> for facility-specific data, user's guides, recorded web-based training sessions and sample PEPPERS.

## **Claims, Pricers, and Codes Update to the CWF Qualifying Stay Edit C7123 for Inpatient SNF Claims**

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) recently resolved an issue concerning the Common Working File (CWF) qualifying stay edit C7123 to allow Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) claims that contain an accurate qualifying hospital stay to bypass edit C7123. SNF providers that have received this edit in error may adjust their affected claims or contact their Medicare Administrative Contractor (MAC) in order to have their claims adjusted. CMS is currently working on a permanent coding fix for CWF edit C7123 that will address all possible bypass scenarios for the edit. SNF providers should contact their MAC with any questions or concerns.

## **STATE NEWS**

### **A Note from the Alabama Board of Nursing**

As of this week, about 24% of RNs have not submitted verification of proof of legal presence or citizenship with the Alabama Board of Nursing. In addition, a significant number have not met all the requirements for renewal. Renewal begins September 1, 2014 so completing your CE requirements, citizenship/legal presence proof, and mandatory CE (if required) should be a priority. If you want to check to see that your citizenship/legal presence has been verified, you can do so by going to <https://www.abn.alabama.gov/abnonline/MyprofileLogin.aspx>. Login with your license number and last four digits of your social security number. Logging in brings you to your profile. Look at the last item under your name section and if your citizenship/legal presence has been verified it will say "Yes." You should also check to see if your address is correct and if it is not, change it now rather than waiting for renewal. Renewal notices will only be sent to the email address of record. Mailing of renewal notices will no longer occur. Be sure the Board has your correct email address so that you will receive notices.

### **A Note from ADPH**

As of July 23, 2014, the Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) only has 60 facilities not enrolled in the ePOC (electronic plans of correction) process. They really appreciate the providers that have enrolled. There are some facilities who believe they are enrolled, but in actuality have not completed the enrollment process. On July 23, 2014 a letter was sent to all facilities that have not completed the enrollment process. ADPH also included instructions on how to do so in the letter. Please get enrolled as soon as possible. If you need assistance with signing up please contact Pamela Carpenter, RN or Mia Sadler, RN at 334-106-5111.

### **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](http://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  
Gertrude Palmer

Effective Date  
7/18/14

## **AQAF to lead Medicare quality improvement work in Alabama with new five-year contract**

*Editor's Note: This article was provided by AQAF.*

AQAF, Alabama's long-time Medicare Quality Improvement Organization (QIO), will continue to lead healthcare quality improvement initiatives for the Medicare program in Alabama under a new redesigned five-year contract through the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS).

In its most recent Request for Proposals to perform this work, CMS required that each bidder's proposal include three to six states, rather than a single state as in the past.

As of August 1, 2014, Tennessee-based Qsource will become the prime Quality Improvement Network-QIO (QIN-QIO) for Alabama and three other states, Tennessee, Mississippi and Kentucky, through July 2019.

As the QIN-QIO's Alabama-based subcontractor, AQAF will continue to work with Alabama providers to promote patient-centered care, make care safer and more affordable, and improve population health. We will engage providers, patients, stakeholders, and communities throughout the state to develop and apply proven strategies for delivering safer, more efficient care.

Under the new structure the four-state group, called the atom Alliance, will work with healthcare providers and communities on multiple, data-driven quality initiatives to improve patient safety, reduce harm and improve clinical care. Through its work, the Alliance will support CMS in its efforts to improve and promote healthcare quality across the entire four-state area to ensure the right care is provided to healthcare patients, at the right time, every time.

"AQAF looks forward to continuing our collaboration with our Alabama partners to drive improvements in quality, safety, and effectiveness of care," said Dr. Wes Smith, AQAF's CEO.

AQAF leads large-scale initiatives that produce rapid, substantial and widespread improvements in healthcare quality for clients in the public and private sectors. For more information visit [www.aqaf.com](http://www.aqaf.com).

### **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](mailto:cynthia.mcintosh@hcqis.org).

More information on the QIO Program can be found at [QIOProgram.org](http://QIOProgram.org) or by contacting 1-800-MEDICARE.

### **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 9<sup>th</sup>, providers will be able to enter referrals into the online system. A dedicated staff person, Ann Duncan ([Clairann.Duncan@medicaid.alabama.gov](mailto: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](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.

## **OTHER NEWS**

### **AHCA Convention & Expo**

The 65<sup>th</sup> Annual 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. 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](http://www.AHCAconvention.org) or [www.NCALconvention.org](http://www.NCALconvention.org)

## **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

<i><b>Date</b></i>	<i><b>Event</b></i>	<i><b>Location</b></i>	<i><b>Time</b></i>
July 28	Ms. Alabama Nursing Home	Hyatt Wynfrey	

	Pageant	Birmingham	
August 1	ANHA Region I Meeting RSVP: Brian Scheri 256-740-5400, <a href="mailto:bscheri@mhnrc.com">bscheri@mhnrc.com</a>	Western Sirloin Moulton	11:30 a.m.

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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>