



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, August 8, 2014

ANHA NEWS

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 has been approved for administrators, nurses, risk managers, assisted living administrators, social workers and activity professionals. *Please see the attached registration form for more information.*

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.

Medicaid Cost Reports due September 15

The Alabama Nursing Home Association is collecting Medicaid cost reports for analysis by our independent reimbursement consultant, Dave Bishop. As in the past, our reimbursement consultant will provide you a detailed analysis of your costs compared to the costs of other facilities of a similar size. ANHA cannot stress enough the importance of sending in your cost report. In order to negotiate with Medicaid on various issues, we need to have accurate information concerning the profession. This information has proved very beneficial in the past.

Please send a copy of your 2013 Medicaid Cost Report to kmagdon@anha.org or by mail to:
Alabama Nursing Home Association
4156 Carmichael Road
Montgomery, Alabama, 36106
ATTN: Katrina Magdon

NATIONAL NEWS

CMS Issues 2% Increase in SNF Rates for FY2015

On July 31, 2014, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a final rule outlining Fiscal Year (FY) 2015 Medicare payment rates for skilled nursing facilities (SNFs).

As in the proposed rule released by CMS earlier this summer, SNFs will see a 2% increase in their Medicare rates. This is an estimated \$750 million increase and represents a higher update factor than the 1.3% update finalized for SNFs last year. This estimated increase is attributable to a 2.5% market basket increase, reduced by the 0.5% multifactor productivity adjustment required by law. *An overview of the rule as prepared by AHCA is attached.*

CMS has a fact sheet explaining the key aspects of the final rule that can be found at <http://www.cms.gov/Newsroom/MediaReleaseDatabase/Fact-sheets/2014-Fact-sheets-items/2014-07-31-4.html>.

The FY 2015 SNF PPS final wage index file can also be found on CMS' website at <http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-Fee-for-Service-Payment/SNFPSP/WageIndex.html>.

The entire final rule can be downloaded from the Office of the Federal Register at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2014-08-05/pdf/2014-18335.pdf>.

Recall Emergency Light Fixture

The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) advises that Lithonia Lighting has recalled emergency lights due to a fire hazard. These emergency light fixtures may be used in nursing centers and assisted living centers. Please visit <http://www.cpsc.gov/en/Recalls/2014/Lithonia-Lighting-Recalls-Emergency-Lights/> for the recall information and it provides a photograph of the fixtures as well as describing the potential danger and remedy.

According to the notice, this recall involves the Quantum® series ELM and ELM2 emergency light fixtures and consumers should contact Lithonia Lighting to receive detailed instructions on how to locate the circuit board and series name and to order a free repair kit, which includes a new circuit board.

Correction to SNF Consolidated Billing Code Lists

Per the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), certain Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) codes were not included in the 2014 annual update to the Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) consolidated billing code editing lists. A correction to the coding lists will be implemented in October, 2014.

The affected HCPCS codes for practitioner billing are Q2050 and the professional component of G0461 and G0462. The affected code for institutional provider billing is Q2050. If you have claims that have been erroneously denied, you should contact your Medicare Administrative Contractor to have the claims re-opened and re-processed.

STATE NEWS

Updated IDR Process Coming Soon

All facilities will soon receive notification from the Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) that there is an updated version of the Informal Dispute Resolution (IDR) Process. The updated IDR process will put into writing policies that have been instituted within the ADPH over the years. We expect notification and copies of the updated IDR Process to be sent to everyone within the coming weeks for ADPH.

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.

Medicaid Check Write Schedule for FY 2015

The release of funds is normally the second Monday after the check write (remittance advice) date. Please verify direct deposit status with your bank. *As always, the release of direct deposit and checks depends on the availability of funds.*

October 3, 2014	October 17, 2014
October 31, 2014	November 14, 2014
December 5, 2014	December 12, 2014
January 2, 2015	January 16, 2015
February 5, 2015	February 20, 2015
March 6, 2015	March 20, 2015
April 3, 2015	April 17, 2015
May 1, 2015	May 15, 2015
June 5, 2015	June 19, 2015
July 10, 2015	July 24, 2015
August 7, 2015	August 21, 2015
September 4, 2015	September 11, 2015

FACILITY NEWS

Facility News is posted on www.anha.org. Articles posted this week include:

- West Alabama Nursing Home Gets High Marks for Quality Care, Celebrates Milestone
- Infographic: Alabama Nursing Homes Improve Customer Satisfaction

OTHER NEWS

Clinical Practice Guidance for Care Transitions

The American Medical Directors Association (AMDA) has released The Transitions of Care in the Long-Term Care Continuum guide which focuses on transitions of care which may occur within care settings, between care settings, across health states and between providers. This Clinical Practice Guideline is a useful resource that contains seven steps for implementation of a care transition program. Also included in this guide are sample policy and procedure for care transition, suggested common or essential elements for medication reconciliation, hospitalist checklist for an ideal discharge of the elderly patient and quality indicators for transitions between nursing facilities and emergency departments.

Transitions of care are common and it is critical to ensure appropriate measures are in place to support quality of care and quality of life for the individuals experiencing the transitions.

To access the Transitions of Care in the Long-Term Care Continuum Clinical Practice Guideline from AMDA please visit <http://www.amda.com/tools/clinical/tocepg.pdf>

Clinical Considerations Toolkit: 7 Steps to Guide Antipsychotic Management

The Clinical Considerations of Antipsychotic Management Toolkit is a clinically-focused resource containing steps and objectives framed around the Nursing Process to assist efforts in reducing the off-label use of antipsychotic medications. The Nursing Process steps include: recognition/assessment, diagnosis/clinical judgment, outcomes planning, implementation, and evaluation. The Nursing Process is a universally acknowledged method used to identify and address complex issues and is consistent with standard problem-solving and quality improvement.

There are two additional steps, leadership and staff training, added to the Nursing Process model completing the framework for this toolkit. Each step and objective includes expectations to meet those objectives along with identification of various tools and resources to assist with meeting the objectives. In addition, the toolkit contains a sample policy, sample memo for communication to physicians, medication tapering checklist, SBAR, CHAT, QA review tool and a case study.

Access the toolkit and learn more about the Quality Initiative here:

http://www.ahcancal.org/quality_improvement/qualityinitiative/Documents/Antipsychotic%20Management%20Toolkit.pdf

Boost Your CEU Count with Constituency Education Programs at the AHCA/NCAL Convention

In about two months, thousands of long term and post-acute care professionals along with speakers, professional and peer educators, leaders and exhibitors from across the country will convene at the Gaylord Resort & Convention Center, just outside Washington, D.C., for the AHCA/NCAL 65th Annual Convention & Expo.

If you haven't registered yet, advance registration continues through September 9. After this date, on-site registration and rates apply.

In addition to this year's general and daily education sessions, attendees can boost their CEU count by attending one of several specialized Constituency Education programs. These programs target key topics and are ideal for specific audiences:

- Assisted Living Professionals: 8th Annual NCAL Day
- ID/DD Providers: Leading the Charge for Compassionate Care: A Day for Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Residential Services Providers
- Rehabilitation Therapists, Clinicians, Nurses, Administrators, Billing/Reimbursement Specialists, and Contract Therapy Executives and Providers: The Critical Role of Rehabilitation Therapy in the SNF PPS, Post-Acute Reform, and Long Term Care
- Procurement Professionals: Procurement Professional Symposium
- NFP Providers: Living the Mission: A Day for Not for Profit Providers

For information or to register, visit www.AHCAconvention.org or www.NCALconvention.org

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Time</i>
August 20	ANHA Region II Act/SS Auxiliary Meeting RSVP: Mary Anne Parsons 256-218-3906	Catfish Cabin Albertville	11:00 a.m.
August 22	ANHA Region V Meeting RSVP: Eldridge Stewart 334-682-4231, estewart@frontiernet.net	Golden Ranch Selma	12:00 p.m.
August 28	Alabama's Best Practices	Cahaba Grand Conf Center Birmingham	8:30 a.m.

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>