



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 15, 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 **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.

Hotel Reservations Open for ANHA Annual Convention & Trade Show

Hotel reservations are now open for the 2014 ANHA Annual Convention & Trade Show. The convention is September 15-18 at the Hyatt Regency Birmingham – The Wynfrey Hotel.

Reduced Room Rates for ANHA Attendees:

- \$145 – single/double
- \$175 – single/double – club level

Call 800-233-1234, or go to <https://aws.passkey.com/g/20913449> to make reservations.

Based on space availability, these rates will be offered two days before and following the meeting dates. To ensure availability of reservation space, you are encouraged to make overnight reservations by **September 1**. After this date, unreserved rooms in ANHA's block will be released for general sales to the public and availability cannot be guaranteed.

More details and convention registration will be available next week.

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

ANHA 2014 Activity/Social Services Annual Convention – Make Room Reservations Now!

Join ANHA as we present the 2014 Activity/Social Services Annual Convention October 22 -24 at The Hyatt Regency Wynfrey Hotel in Birmingham. This year's convention is packed with great educational offerings for ***ALL*** nursing home staff. Continuing education will be offered for activity professionals (13 hours), social workers (13 hours), nursing home administrators (13 hours) and nurses (15.6 hours).

During the convention, we will hold the Annual Activity/Social Services Auxiliary General Business Session and officers will be elected for 2015. The Activity/Social Services Auxiliary Nominating Committee is charged with the task of collecting the names of individuals interested in serving the Auxiliary Association in a leadership role.

The Committee is accepting nominations for the following positions: Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer

If you are interested in one of the above positions, or if you have additional questions, please contact *Ina Brown* (ina@tlcnursingcenter.com) or *Endya Gibbs* (egibbs@ballhealth.com). Elections will be held during the General Business Session of the Activity/Social Services Auxiliary Annual Convention on Thursday, October 23 at 8:00 a.m. at The Hyatt Regency Wynfrey Hotel in Birmingham.

Host Hotel Reservations for 2014 Activity/Social Services Convention

The newly renovated Hyatt Regency Birmingham – The Wynfrey Hotel will be the host hotel for this year's convention. Reservations can be made by calling the hotel at 800-233-1234, or online at www.hyattregencywynfrey.com and using code "AAS4".

The following rates have been negotiated with the Hyatt Regency Birmingham – The Wynfrey Hotel for our 2014 Activity/Social Services Annual Convention Attendees:

- \$140 per Standard/Double Room
- \$170 per Concierge Level Room

Based on space availability, these rates will be offered one day before and following the meeting dates. To ensure availability of reservation space, all participants are encouraged to make their overnight reservations by **OCTOBER 8**. After this date, rooms from our block which are not reserved will be released for general sales to the public and availability cannot be guaranteed. *Please watch for more information to be distributed soon.*

2014 ANHA Owners' Meeting & Educational Symposium October 26 - 29 – Make Room Reservations Now!

Sponsored by:

American Medical Technologies
Arthur J. Gallagher & Co.
Associated LTC Insurance Company
Gericare Medical Supply
Healthcare Services Group, Inc.

Senior Care Pharmacy
Sherlock, Smith & Adams
Starnes Davis Florie, LLP
Restore Therapy Services

Join ANHA for the 2014 Owners' Meeting and Educational Symposium. The event will be held October 26 -29 at the Beau Rivage in Biloxi, Mississippi. The annual owners' meeting and lunch will be held on October 28. ANHA will hold its annual Board Retreat and planning session on October 29.

Overnight group rates have been negotiated with the hotel for this meeting at a rate of **\$98** per night including the resort fee. To make overnight reservations, please contact 888-567-6667 and identify yourself as being part of the Alabama Nursing Home Association. **The Beau Rivage must receive your reservations by September 26, 2014, in order to receive the special group rate.**

This entire event has been approved for a total of 4.5 hours of continuing education credit for nursing home administrators. *Watch for more details in the near future.*

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/SNFPPS/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>.

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.

Synagis® Criteria for 2014 – 2015 Season

The Alabama Medicaid Agency has updated its prior authorization criteria for the Synagis® 2014 - 2015 season. Below are some highlights for the season. Complete criteria can be found on the website at the following link:

http://medicaid.alabama.gov/CONTENT/4.0_Programs/4.5.0_Pharmacy/4.5.14_Synagis.aspx

- The approval time frame for Synagis® will begin October 1, 2014 and will be effective through March 31, 2015. Up to five doses will be allowed per recipient in this timeframe. There are no circumstances that will result in the approval of a 6th dose.
- If a dose was administered in an inpatient setting, the date the dose was administered must be included on the request form. Subsequent doses will be denied if child experiences a breakthrough RSV hospitalization during the RSV season.
- **Prescribers**, not the pharmacy, manufacturer or any other third party entity, are to submit requests for Synagis® on a separate prior authorization form (Form 351) **directly** to Health Information Designs and completed forms may be accepted beginning September 2, 2014 (for an October 1 effective date).
- Stamped or copied physician signatures will not be accepted and will be returned to the provider.
- A copy of the hospital discharge summary from birth or documentation of the first office visit with pertinent information (gestational age, diagnosis, etc.) is required on all Synagis® PA requests.
- If approved, each subsequent monthly dose will require submission of the recipient's current weight and last injection date and may be faxed to HID by the prescribing physician or dispensing pharmacy utilizing the original PA approval letter.
- Medicaid is the payor of last resort. Claims must be billed to the primary payor if other third party coverage exists. Use of NCPDP Other Coverage Codes will be reviewed and inappropriately billed claims will be recouped.

Criteria

Alabama Medicaid follows the 2014 American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Redbook guidelines regarding Synagis utilization. *The AAP Guidelines were updated 7/28/14 and there*

are major changes that may affect your patients in the upcoming RSV season. For more details, please review a copy of the guidelines found at <http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/early/2014/07/23/peds.2014-1665>.

Additional questions regarding Synagis® criteria can be directed to the Agency's Prior Authorization contractor, Health Information Designs at 1-800-748-0130.

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

- [Nursing Home Resident Plays Golf to Celebrate 100th Birthday](#)
- [16 Nursing Homes Honored for Innovative Care Practices](#)

OTHER NEWS

Electronic Protected Health Information (ePHI)

Attached is an article on texting in medical institutions/organizations. This was sent to us by Clinical Advisor, a clearinghouse for a variety of potentially useful products for physicians and administrators.

The risks associated with sending Electronic Protected Health Information (ePHI) via unencrypted text messaging are significant, especially given the climate of rising enforcement of compliance with The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) and The Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health (HITECH) Act. However, there is high demand amongst healthcare providers to use text messaging as a fast, convenient way to communicate and collaborate with colleagues.

This whitepaper provides:

- A detailed overview of the HIPAA Omnibus Rule, including HITECH Meaningful Use mandates, as it pertains to secure texting messaging of ePHI
- Best practices for instituting a secure text messaging policy within your healthcare organization
- A vendor comparison checklist for meeting HIPAA, security, administrative, security and vendor requirements

Track Hospitalizations with Advancing Excellence Tracking Tools

The Advancing Excellence (AE) hospitalization tracking tools allow you to document your work, monitor outcomes and processes related to those outcomes. Data-driven quality improvement projects require ongoing data collection and analysis. It is important to start collecting data to establish a solid baseline and set a target for improvement. Keep your workbook up-to-date on a daily or weekly basis and look at data often to support a rapid cycle quality improvement project.

This website <https://www.nhqualitycampaign.org/goalDetail.aspx?g=hosp#tab2> allows you to download the data tracking tool.

Contact the AE Helpdesk with any questions at: help@nhqualitycampaign.org

AHCA Webinar: It's Not Just the Data, It's What You Do With It

If you're already collecting satisfaction data, then you're on the right track. But do you know what to do with that wealth of information once you've received your survey results? Join My InnerView by National Research Corporation to discover how to use your data as a powerful ally to achieve quality initiative goals, improve performance and gain even more referral partners.

Complimentary AHCA Webinar: It's Not Just the Data, It's What You Do With It
Tuesday, August 19, 2014, 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. Central Time

Speaker: Jason Stevens, Post-Acute Business Development, My InnerView Natl. Research Corporation

Learning Objectives:

1. Find out how to most effectively survey and ask the right people, the right questions, at the right time.
2. Once you've collected the right data, discover how to set realistic improvement goals in the most impactful areas.
3. Learn how to use your data to get the attention of hospitals and health systems and drive more referrals.

Registration Link: <http://webinars.ahcancal.org/session.php?id=13750>

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/toccp.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 15	ANHA Region VIII Meeting & Election RSVP: Sal.Lee Sasser-Williams 334-222-2133, sallee@andalusiamanor.org Guest Speaker: Senior Dental Program	Andalusia Manor Andalusia	12:00 p.m.

August 20	ANHA Region II Act/SS Auxiliary Meeting RSVP: Mary Anne Parsons 256-218-3906	Catfish Cabin Albertville	11:00 a.m.
August 21	ANHA Region II Meeting & Election RSVP: Jim Walker 256-927-7408, jimwalker1@me.com	Catfish Cabin Albertville	12:00 p.m.
August 21	ANHA Region IV Meeting & Election RSVP: Pam Penland 256-594-5148 Lunch will be provided	City Market Restaurant Anniston	1:00 p.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>