



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 22, 2014

ANHA NEWS

Registration Open for Annual Convention & Trade Show

Registration is now open for the 2014 ANHA Annual Convention & Trade Show. The convention will be held September 15-18 at the Hyatt Regency Birmingham – The Wynfrey Hotel. The trade show is September 16.

The convention features educational seminar on timely and relevant topics, social gatherings and Alabama's largest long term care trade show. New for 2014, ANHA welcomes former White House Chef Walter Scheib for a special meal and presentation at the Dinner/Dance. Chef Scheib's presentation will be followed by Feel the Beat Entertainment.

See the attached brochure for more information.

For member nursing home registration, [click here](#).

For associate member/vendor registration, [click here](#).

Hotel Reservations

ANHA's reduced room rates at the Hyatt Regency Birmingham – The Wynfrey Hotel.

- \$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.

Registration Now: Alabama's Best Practices is Thursday, August 28

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.*

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 (14 hours), social workers (14 hours), nursing home administrators (14 hours) and nurses (16.8 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 SNF/LTC Open Door Forum Excerpt: COT OMRA & RAI Manual Update

During the August 5, 2014, SNF/Long-term Care Open Door Forum, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) officials addressed the Change of Therapy Other Medicare Required Assessment (COT OMRA) change associated with the FY 2015 SNF PPS Final Rule.

This changes allows providers to use the COT OMRA “to reclassify a resident into a therapy RUG from a non-therapy RUG, but only in certain limited circumstances,” stressed officials during the ODF. “More specifically, a COT OMRA may be completed when a resident is not currently classified into a RUG-IV therapy group but only if both of the following conditions are

met: First, that the resident has been classified into a RUG-IV therapy group on a prior assessment during the resident's current Medicare Part A stay, and second, that no discontinuation of therapy services, planned or unplanned, occurred between day 1 of the COT observation period for the COT OMRA that classified the resident into his or her current non-therapy RUG-IV group and the ARD [assessment reference date] of the COT OMRA that reclassified the resident into a RUG-IV therapy group."

CMS officials noted that a required condition in this policy is there can be no discontinuation of therapy services, planned or unplanned, that occurred between day 1 of the COT observation period for the COT OMRA that classify the person into the non-therapy RUG and the ARD of the COT OMRA that reclassified the resident into a therapy RUG.

COT OMRAs that are completed under this new policy should be treated like any other unscheduled assessment, said officials. "All of the rules that would apply to that unscheduled assessment, whether they be rules of combination, rules associated with early and late penalties, etc., all of those should be considered to apply." In addition, this revision "does not have any impact on the other OMRAs within the SNF PPS. The rules and policies associated with all other assessment types remain the same," according to the final rule.

The FY 2015 final rule goes into effect October 1, 2014. CMS will issue a transition memo to explain how the COT OMRA change will be implemented. CMS advised this memo will be posted soon on the SNF PPS Spotlight page located at <http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-Fee-for-Service-Payment/SNFPPS/Spotlight.html>.

RAI Manual update

CMS officials announced the next update to the RAI User's Manual for the MDS 3.0 "is on track" for release "on or about" September 5, 2014. The revision will be posted at the agency's official RAI Manual page at <http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/NursingHomeQualityInits/MDS30RAIManual.html>. Providers should expect to see more details about the revised COT OMRA policy in this manual update.

Path to Excellence: Person-Centered Care

Person-centered care promotes choice, purpose and meaning in daily life. Person-centered care means that nursing home residents are supported in achieving the level of physical, mental and psychosocial well-being that is individually practicable. The Advancing Excellence (AE) person-centered goal honors the importance of keeping the person at the center of the care planning and decision-making process. Care plans are living documents that are revised to reflect a person's changing needs. Through person-centered care, staff places a premium on active listening and observing, so staff can adapt to each resident's changing needs regardless of cognitive abilities.

The AE website offers a person centered care tracking tool. The tool can be found at: <https://www.nhqualitycampaign.org/goalDetail.aspx?g=PCC#tab2>. The person centered care tracking tool can be utilized to log results from residents' Preference Satisfaction Interviews and record how their subsequent care plans address those preferences. The tool creates graphic displays indicating opportunities to fulfill residents' preferences, evaluate community trends, and calculates an overall Preference Congruence Quality Indicator and the percent of care plan meetings with key participants.

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>.

STATE NEWS

Medicaid Alert Released: Handling Funds Following the Death of a Medicaid-Eligible Resident

Medicaid has released a new Alert that replaces the Alert dated November 21, 2013, in regards to handling funds following the death of a Medicaid-Eligible resident. The purpose of the alert is to clarify the procedures associated with handling funds following the death of a Medicaid-eligible nursing home resident.

42 CFR § 483.10(c)(6), the Medicaid Administrative Code 560-X-10.-14(3)(f) and 560-X-22-.25(5)(e) and the Social Security Administration Guide for Representative Payees require that nursing homes, upon the death of a resident, release any funds being held at the facility in the resident's name to the individual or probate jurisdiction designated to administer the deceased resident's estate.

Attached is a copy of this alert as well as a newly developed **Administrator of Estate Designation Form** which will provide a resident the opportunity to designate who should receive the remaining personal funds.

Upon the death of the resident, the completed form in the patient's record will allow a nursing home facility to turn over any remaining funds to the designated Administrator of the Estate. The designated administrator may utilize these funds for the payment of burial expenses or for some other use; however, the administrator should be made aware that any remaining funds left to the estate may be subject to Medicaid estate recovery, pursuant to 42 USC § 1396p. *For more information, refer to the attached Medicaid Alert and Administrator of Estate Designation Form.*

ePOC Update from the Alabama Department of Public Health

As of last week the Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) has 176 facilities enabled and activated to use the ePOC (electronic plans of correction). If you are 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 334-106-5111.

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:

- [Senators, Mayors Honor Ms. Alabama Nursing Home](#)
- [Developing Individual Treatment Plans for People with Dementia](#)
- [Nursing Home “Huddles Up” to Improve Health Outcomes](#)
- [Parties that Serve a Purpose](#)
- [Reducing Resident Alarms to Improve Care, Quality of Life](#)

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

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

Not-for-Profit Nursing Homes

On Tuesday, October 7, [Living the Mission: A Day for Not for Profit Providers](#) takes place. This event offers excellent speakers, multiple education sessions (CMS and VA will be in attendance), time to network with your peers, and the chance to earn 6 additional CEUs. This event is included if you register for the AHCA/NCAL Convention & Expo for the full/premium registration package. However, in order to help AHCA/NCAL plan for the two included meals and reception event – and best serve your needs at this special constituency education program, please make sure you have registered for **Living the Mission**. To do so, sign in again and check the box that says you will attend this event.

- More specifically, you can sign into your convention registration account using the login and password provided when you registered. Simply, check the box that says "yes" that you will be attending and save your registration.
- If you just plan to attend NFP Day, and not the rest of Convention – simply check the NFP Day only box.

If you have any questions, please contact AHCA's Senior Director of Not for Profit & Constituent Services, [Dana Halvorson](#).

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 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.

August 29	ANHA Region VII Meeting RSVP: Gail McInnish 251-937-3501, gail.mcinnish@infirmaryhealth.com	Felix's Fish House Mobile	12:00 p.m.
September 5	ANHA Region VI Meeting & Election Lunch will be provided RSVP: Jennifer Agee 205-391-3600, Jennifer.agee@northporthealth.com	ANHA Office Montgomery	12:00 p.m.
September 15-18	ANHA Annual Convention	Hyatt Wynfrey Birmingham	
September 16	ANHA Trade Show	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>