



Weekly Roundup

...Reporting the state and national long term care news

Please disseminate relevant information to the appropriate department.

- Administration Nursing Dietary Activities Social Services
 Rehabilitation Housekeeping Maintenance Laundry

Friday, January 10, 2014

ANHA NEWS

ANHA Expresses Sympathy

ANHA lost two members of our profession over the holiday period. Curt Wasson, III, passed away on December 27. Mr. Wasson was Administrator of Haleyville Health Care Center. Fred Skelton, III, passed away on January 1. Mr. Skelton was a previous nursing home owner and administrator of South Haven Health and Rehabilitation located in Birmingham. ANHA extends its deepest sympathy to the families of these two fine gentlemen. They will certainly be missed.

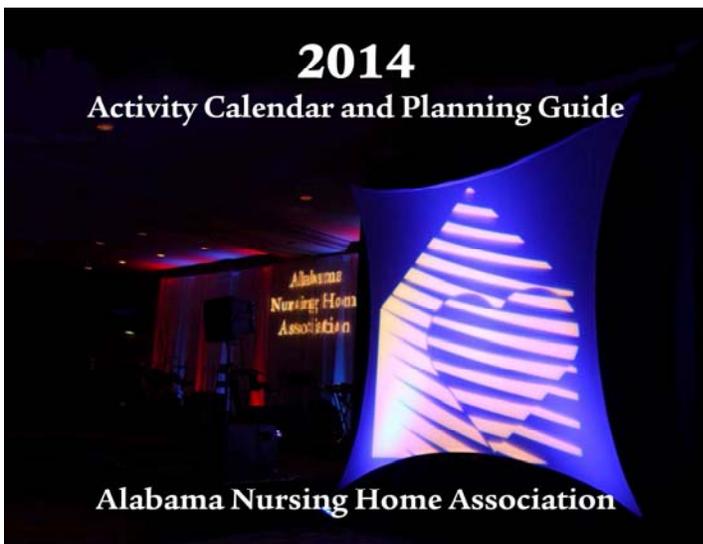
New Online Registration Opens for “2014 Legal Compliance for Nursing Homes” Seminar

Please mark your calendars for January 13, 2014, as ANHA will present a seminar entitled “Legal Compliance in Nursing Homes.” This seminar will be held at The Hyatt Regency - Wynfrey Hotel in Birmingham. The seminar will begin at 8:30 am and conclude at 4:00 pm. This seminar has been approved for 6 hours of continuing education for nursing home administrators. It has also been 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.*

New Online Registration Opens for “The Perfect Storm: A Convergence of Quality, Compliance, and Risk Management” Seminar

Please mark your calendars for February 3, 2014, as ANHA will present a seminar entitled “The Perfect Storm: A Convergence of Quality, Compliance, and Risk Management”. This seminar will be held at The Hyatt Regency - Wynfrey Hotel in Birmingham. The seminar will begin at 8:30 am and conclude at 4:00 pm. This seminar has been approved for 6 hours of continuing education for nursing home administrators. It has also been 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.*

2014 ANHA Activity Calendar and Planning Guide



Copies of the 2014 ANHA Activity Calendar and Planning Guide were mailed to all administrators, activity directors, owners and associate members. The calendar is full of useful information related to nursing homes and contains the dates of major ANHA events. A limited number of calendars are available for purchase for only \$10.00 each. *Please see the attached calendar order form for more details.*

STATE NEWS

Annual Report of Employing Agencies

It is that time of year again when the Annual Report of Employing Agencies is due to the Alabama Board of Nursing (ABN). January 31, 2014, is the deadline. Here is the link to the information you need to know about how to report: <http://abn.alabama.gov/Content.aspx?id=178>.

If you are a subscriber to the online verification subscription service, you do not have to submit the report because your report is the subscription. This is a good time to check your subscription and delete nurses who no longer work for you and add those that you plan to monitor.

ABN checks each name and license number against its database to be sure that the individuals you list are appropriately licensed. The law requires that each nurse be properly licensed in order to practice nursing. If you have questions about the report, do not hesitate to contact ABN's Call Center at 1-800-656-5318.

CMS-1500 Claim Form Revision - Alabama Medicaid to Accept Revised Form Beginning January 6, 2014

The CMS-1500 Claim Form has been revised to more adequately support the use of the ICD-10 diagnosis code set, which is important as the October 1, 2014, transition approaches. The revised CMS-1500 form (version 02/12) will replace CMS-1500 (version 08/05). The revised form will give providers the ability to indicate whether they are using ICD-9 or ICD-10 diagnosis codes and also allows for additional diagnosis codes, expanding from 4 possible codes to 12 possible codes.

Please note:

- **ICD-9 codes** must be used for services provided **before October 1, 2014**
- **ICD-10 codes** must be used for services provided **on or after October 1, 2014**

Alabama Medicaid will begin accepting the revised form on January 6, 2014. Claims submitted on the **revised CMS-1500 (version 02/12)** form **prior to January 6, 2014**, will be returned without being processed.

Claims submitted on the **retired CMS-1500 (version 08/05)** form **on or after April 1, 2014**, will be returned without being processed.

HP Enterprise Services does not supply this form. Providers should obtain this form from a vendor supplying current CMS-1500 forms.

REMINDER: Alabama Medicaid requires all claims be submitted electronically. The only time a provider should submit a paper claim is for administrative review or other exceptions previously outlined. If you have any questions, please contact the Provider Assistance Center at 1-800-688-7989.

Nurse Aide Abuse Registry

Please note that the following individuals have been placed on the Alabama Nurse Aide Abuse and/or Sanction Registry. These individuals are 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 (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.)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Barbara Marshall	1/6/2014
Schuretta Reyes	1/6/2014

NATIONAL NEWS

FDA Releases DRAFT Guidance on Blood Glucose Monitoring Test Systems for Prescription Point-of-Care Use

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is announcing the availability of the draft guidance entitled “Blood Glucose Monitoring Test Systems for Prescription Point-of-Care Use.” (<http://www.regulations.gov/#!documentDetail;D=FDA-2013-D-1445-0002>) This draft guidance document describes studies and criteria FDA recommends for blood glucose monitoring test systems (BGMSs) which are for prescription point-of-care use. When finalized, FDA intends for this document to guide manufacturers in conducting appropriate performance studies and preparing premarket notifications for these device types. ***This draft guidance is not final nor is it in effect at this time.*** Comments are due to the FDA by April 7, 2014.

CMS Releases Proposed Rule Regarding Medicare Advantage and the Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit Plans

A proposed rule entitled: Contract Year 2015 Policy and Technical Changes to the Medicare Advantage and the Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit Programs http://www.ofr.gov/OFRUpload/OFRData/2013-31497_PL.pdf has been released by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). The proposed rule would revise the Medicare

Advantage program (Part C) regulations and prescription drug benefit program (Part D) regulations to implement statutory requirements; strengthen beneficiary protections; exclude plans that perform poorly; improve program efficiencies; and clarify program requirements. The proposed rule also includes several provisions designed to improve payment accuracy. Comments are due March 7, 2014.

CMS Issues Proposed Rule Related To Disaster Preparedness for Medicare/Medicaid Providers

On December 27, 2013, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a proposed rule entitled *Medicare and Medicaid Programs; Emergency Preparedness Requirements for Medicare and Medicaid Participating Providers and Suppliers* <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2013-12-27/pdf/2013-30724.pdf>. According to the CMS, this proposed rule would establish national emergency preparedness requirements for Medicare- and Medicaid-participating providers and suppliers to ensure that they adequately plan for both natural and man-made disasters, and coordinate with federal, state, tribal, regional and local emergency preparedness systems. It would also ensure that these providers and suppliers are adequately prepared to meet the needs of patients, residents, clients and participants during disasters and emergency situations. Comments on the proposed rule are due February 25, 2014.

New Guidance for Consumers and Providers Related to Bed Rail Safety

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has posted important new guidance for consumers and providers related to bed rail safety. It includes descriptions of safety concerns, recommendations for providers, and suggestions for filing complaints. Here is the link: <http://www.fda.gov/MedicalDevices/ProductsandMedicalProcedures/HomeHealthandConsumer/ConsumerProducts/BedRailSafety/default.htm>

There are no changes to the bed rail guidance for hospital bed rails that was released in 2000 and updated in 2010. There is expanded information about adult portable bed rails.

According to the Administration for Community Living, this new guidance is a result of significant coordination by the FDA, the Consumer Product Safety Commission and the Administration for Community Living, as well as consumer advocates.

Medicare Therapy Cap Update

In mid-December, Congress passed a three-month extension of the Medicare therapy cap for 2014 (through March 31, 2014) as Section 1103 of the Pathway for SGR Reform Act of 2013.

Section 1103 – Extension Related to Payments for Medicare Outpatient Therapy Services — Section 1103 extends the exceptions process for outpatient therapy caps beginning Jan. 1, 2014, through March 31, 2014. Providers of outpatient therapy services are required to submit the KX modifier on their therapy claims, when an exception to the cap is requested for medically necessary services furnished through March 31, 2014. In addition, the new law extends the application of the cap and threshold to therapy services furnished in a hospital outpatient department (OPD). Find additional information about the exception process for therapy services in the [Medicare Claims Processing Manual](#), Pub.100-04, Chapter 5, Section 10.3.

The therapy caps are determined for a beneficiary on a calendar year basis, so all beneficiaries began a new cap for outpatient therapy services received on Jan. 1, 2014. For physical therapy and speech language pathology services combined, the 2014 limit for a beneficiary on incurred expenses is \$1,920. There is a separate cap for occupational therapy services, which is \$1,920 for 2014. Deductible and coinsurance amounts applied to therapy services count toward the amount accrued before a cap is reached, and also apply for services above the cap where the KX modifier is used.

Section 1103 also extends the mandate that Medicare perform manual medical review of therapy services furnished Jan. 1, 2014, through March 31, 2014, for which an exception is requested when the beneficiary has reached a dollar aggregate threshold amount of \$3,700 for therapy services, including OPD therapy services, for a year. There are two separate \$3,700 aggregate annual thresholds: (1) physical therapy and speech-language pathology services combined, and (2) occupational therapy services.

CMS Issues Clarified Program Guidance Related to Jimmo Settlement

Recently, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) released the long anticipated revised program manual guidance in accordance with the *Jimmo v. Sebelius* settlement agreement, and has initiated their outreach and education efforts. *Attached is a brief summary of the history of Jimmo and highlights from the recently released CMS program manual updates, educational materials, and recent National Provider Call.* In addition, the American Health Care Association (AHCA) has provided web links to the pertinent court, CMS, and AHCA documents to-date related to Jimmo.

1.5% COLA for Social Security

Monthly Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits for nearly 63 million Americans will increase 1.5 percent in 2014, the Social Security Administration announced. The 1.5 percent cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) will begin with benefits that more than 57 million Social Security beneficiaries receive in January 2014. Increased payments to more than 8 million SSI beneficiaries will begin on Dec. 31, 2013.

For additional information about the 2013 COLA, go to www.socialsecurity.gov/cola. *Attached is a COLA Fact Sheet prepared by ANHA Associate Member Healthcare Compensation Solutions.*

OSHA Confirms Heavily Soiled Health Care Linens are not Regulated Waste

Long term care facilities and other health care providers are not required to dispose of contaminated linen as “regulated waste,” the Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA) clarified in a recent letter:

<http://almnet.org/associations/1437/files/OSHA%20Letter.pdf>

The letter came in response to queries from the Association for Linen Management and the American Reusable Textile Association. Health care laundry operators who belong to these organizations have called attention to the practice of placing heavily soiled linens in red bags, which is a sign to laundry operators that the bag must go to a waste department for disposal. OSHA’s regulatory standard governing regulated waste is not meant to apply to linens that are laundered and reused, according to the agency’s letter.

Health care providers place linens in red bags out of an understandable desire to control infections, but doing so is unnecessary and costly, leading to hundreds of millions of dollars in annual costs.

The practice of unnecessary disposal is most commonly seen in hospital operating rooms, but is also an issue in long term care. Facilities might dispose of linen that has been soiled by residents who have *Clostridium difficile*. This is because workers believe the infection is so virulent that disposal is the surest way to limit its spread, which is untrue. Rather, workers should be sure to place heavily soiled linens in an impermeable bag so that it does not leak on the way to the laundry. Then, the linens can be washed according to the requirements set forth by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

ICD-10 Update

On **October 1, 2014**, the ICD-9 code sets used to report medical diagnoses and inpatient procedures will be replaced by ICD-10 code sets. ANHA is working on setting up training soon for the ICD-10. We came across some information that you might find beneficial as you plan for the ICD-10 implementation. *For facts and myths regarding ICD-10 please visit <http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Coding/ICD10/downloads/ICD-10MythsandFacts.pdf>.*

Reminder: Post OSHA Illness & Injury Forms On Feb. 1 until April 30, 2014

February 1 is the deadline for employers to post the Summary of Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA) Occupational Work-Related Injuries and Illnesses Summary Form 300A, which must remain posted until April 30, 2014. The injuries and illnesses being reported are for calendar year 2013.

Work-related injuries and illnesses that must be reported are those that occur in a work environment and results in one of the following conditions: a loss of consciousness, sick days, medical treatment beyond first aid, restricted work activities, a job transfer, and death. Other conditions that must be recorded are needle stick injuries or cuts from sharp objects as well as sprain and strain injuries to muscles joints and connective tissue according to the OSHA Form 300. For a complete list of injuries and illness that need to be recorded, go to <https://www.osha.gov/recordkeeping/RKforms.html>. There are forms that can be completed by printing a blank form or forms can be filled out online.

An employer must keep the OSHA's log and summary for five years after the reported year. For example, 2012 must be retained through 2017.

FACILITY NEWS

Facility News in on ANHA's News Website

The Alabama Nursing Home Association has created a new website to promote news from our member facilities. The website is www.news.anha.org. This website will keep you up to date on news and allow you to easily share the news on Facebook, Twitter and other platforms.

Items posted this week include:

- Connect with Ms. Alabama Nursing Home on Facebook

- Learn to speak Hawaiian for National Nursing Home Week

Please contact John Matson at the Association office at (334) 271-6214 or jmatson@anha.org if you have any questions or want to share your good news.

Ms. Alabama Nursing Home is Ready to Visit Your Facility



Start the new year by inviting Ms. Alabama Nursing Home Verdell Goodson to visit your nursing home or attend a community event. Ms. Goodson is ready and able to travel the state to share stories of the great things taking place in our nursing homes. To schedule an appearance, contact Brenda Cooley at Enterprise Health & Rehab Center at (334) 347-9541 or bgccac@gmail.com.

National Nursing Home Week 2014 Theme Announced



“Living the Aloha Spirit” is the theme for [National Nursing Home Week](#) (NNHW), May 11-18, 2014. To Hawaiians, the word “*aloha*” has a deeper significance than as just a word of greeting or fond farewell. By *Living the Aloha Spirit*, we show others love and respect and joyfully share life in order to create a better world. Key attributes of the “*Aloha Spirit*” include patience, kindness, humility and good feelings in caring about others. Embracing the *Aloha Spirit* will reflect how your skilled nursing care center practices “*aloha*” as a means to provide a harmonious environment for residents, patients, families, staff and any person who interacts with the long term and post-acute care community.

OTHER NEWS

Promoting Positive Behavioral Health: A Non-pharmacologic Toolkit for Senior Living Communities

The “Promoting Positive Behavioral Health” toolkit can help nursing homes better address resident behaviors without the use of medications. The toolkit was prepared by the

Commonwealth Fund and the Hartford Foundation. For more information on the toolkit, visit <http://www.nursinghometoolkit.com/>.

Emergency Preparedness Training Video

ANHA has become aware of a recently completed video specific to emergency preparedness in nursing homes & assisted living facilities. It is intended for in-service training and orientation of staff that work in such facilities, and was designed to be engaging in a story-like format; with preparedness messages conveyed throughout the story. This is something you might want to use in your facilities. The video link: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vD7u4n0OdJI>

Mark your Calendar for AHCA's Nutrition Webinar Series!

The American Health Care Association (AHCA), along with Brenda Richardson, MA, RDN, LD, CD, a known leader in the field of dietetics and works with business development/relations for Dietary Consultants, Inc., will be presenting a series of nutrition related webinars for those in the long term care field. Join them for important updates and information impacting your centers and patients. Get your pressing questions answered.

Webinar Schedule:

- Jan. 21, 2014: Nutrition and MDS 3.0
- <http://webinars.ahcancal.org/session.php?id=11612>: 1:00 p.m. – 2:15 p.m. CST
- Feb. 18, 2014 Current Best Practice Standards for Nutrition in Long Term Care <http://webinars.ahcancal.org/session.php?id=11614>): 1:00 p.m. – 2:15 p.m. CST

What's New at the 2014 AHCA Quality Symposium

It's one of the busiest times of the year, so don't delay. Before the holiday rush kicks in, register for the Quality Symposium, and cross one thing off your end-of-the-year list of things to do. The registration deadline is January 10, 2014.

NEW Education Sessions Added

A terrific line-up of educational and networking opportunities makes this one of the best long term care events of the year. Three clinically-focused sessions designed specifically for nursing attendees have been added. These sessions will discuss the care practices and services that are targeted areas for quality improvement. In addition, new sessions have also been added for assisted living providers. And, on Tuesday, February 11, a celebration luncheon will be held recognizing those centers around the country that have accomplished multiple Quality Initiative goals.

The symposium will kick off with five, four-hour intensives (included with registration) that offer attendees the opportunity to dive into critical issues facing long term and post-acute care providers. With more than 20 education sessions available, two general sessions, a poster gallery, and lots of opportunities for professional networking, you won't want to miss this event!

Join the American Health Care Association for the 6th annual Quality Symposium: Quality Is Our Business Solution on February 10-12, 2014, at the New Orleans Marriott in New Orleans, LA. Registration is available online at:

<http://www.ahcancal.org/events/qualitysymposium/Pages/Registration.aspx>.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<u><i>Date</i></u>	<u><i>Event</i></u>	<u><i>Location</i></u>	<u><i>Time</i></u>
January 24	ANHA Region VII Meeting RSVP: Gail McInnish (251) 937-3501, gail.mcinnish@infirmarhealth.org	Felix's Fish Camp Mobile	12:00 p.m.
January 31	ANHA Region VII Act/SS Auxiliary Meeting RSVP: Jo Ann Smyly (334) 637-3239	Felix's Fish Camp Mobile	11:30 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>