



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 25, 2013

ANHA NEWS

ANHA Welcomes Clara Ruth Matson!

Congratulations go to ANHA Communications Director John Matson and his wife Lauren on the birth of their daughter, Clara Ruth. Clara was born on Sunday, January 20th weighing in at 5 lbs. 2 oz. Please join us as we welcome Clara to the ANHA family.

RAC Webinar Rescheduled!

Due to technical difficulties and the unanticipated large number of participants for the webinar, HMS had to reschedule.

The webinar will now occur on the following date and time:



Join us for a Webinar on January 28

Space is limited.

Reserve your Webinar seat now at:

<https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/513089850>

HMS LTC Audit Educational Webinar

Title: *HMS LTC Audits*

Date: Monday, January 28, 2013

Time: 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM CST

After registering you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the Webinar.

System Requirements

PC-based attendees

Required: Windows® 7, Vista, XP or 2003 Server

Mac®-based attendees
Required: Mac OS® X 10.5 or newer

Mobile attendees
Required: iPhone®, iPad®, Android™ phone or Android tablet

ANHA apologizes for the inconvenience on behalf of HMS and the Alabama Medicaid Agency.

ANHA Partners with the National Center for Disaster Medical Response, University of South Alabama Center for Strategic Health Innovation

The Alabama Nursing Home Association has been working with the National Center for Disaster Medical Response, University of South Alabama Center for Strategic Health Innovation in the development of a training program specific for nursing homes. In addition we have jointly prepared a Disaster Planning Guidance Manual regarding Sheltering in Place and Evacuations. To roll out the manual and work the group has done we will be jointly presenting seminars across the state.

This specific ARRTC Road Show is a 3 hour course designed for key administrators and staff at all healthcare facilities in the state. Four (4) Road Shows will be offered at sites throughout the state of Alabama. The goal of this training is twofold: to bring ARRTC training on site to healthcare facilities across the state, thereby allowing participation by more staff; and to invite regional neighbors/response partners to the training for purposes of establishing and enhancing a common knowledge of the basics of disaster response for healthcare facilities. Key topics include: Intro to Hospital Incident Command System (HICS), National Incident Management System (NIMS) and National Response Framework (NRF); NIMS Compliance Requirements; Alabama Incident Management System (AIMS); Hazard Threat and Vulnerability Assessment and Disaster Response Plans; Altered Standards of Care; Chemical and Radiological Awareness; Biological Awareness; Decontamination and Personal Protective Equipment; Surge Capacity and Resource Management; Emergency Operations Center Activities; Medical Needs Shelters, Medical Reserve Corps; Strategic National Stockpile and Points of Dispensing; Evacuation; Fundamentals of Efficient and Effective Patient Handling during Evacuation; and current topics and unique events requested by ADPH.

ARRTC Road Show is designed for individuals charged with disaster response leadership for their organization.

The registration is FREE but is required! The training will be held at the following dates and times:

February 28 th	Montgomery	8:00 am and repeated again at 12:00 pm
March 13 th	Birmingham	8:00 am and repeated again at 12:00 pm
April 11 th	Huntsville	8:00 am
April 30 th	Orange Beach	12:00 pm

Please see the enclosed flyers for registration information.

Call for Nominations: Alabama's Best Practices

Will you share your Best Practice? You are invited to share your knowledge, positive ideas, creativity and communicate with other professionals as we continue to strive to meet the needs of our long-term care residents. *Attached is the 2013 Alabama's Best Practices "Call for Nominations."* We encourage each of you to look over the nomination form and submit your Best Practice. This year's Best Practices Program is scheduled for Thursday, August 29, 2013. Nominations are due by April 19, 2013.

The Long Term Care Survey Is Back and Better Than Ever!

The new November 2012 edition includes all CMS' updates:

- Revisions were made to Appendix P of SOM: use of new QM report.
- Revisions to Chapter 9 of SOM: Changes and Deletions to Exhibits.
- Changes to Appendix PP:
 - F-tag 309 (Quality of Care at or near End of Life)
 - F-tag 322 (Feeding Tube)
 - F-tag 155 (Residents Rights to Establish Directives and Accept or Decline Treatments)



The new edition also includes a searchable CD! A limited number of survey guides are available for purchase for only \$52.00 each. *Please see the attached order form for more details.*

NATIONAL NEWS

HHS Releases Final Privacy/Security Rules

The US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has released the long-awaited omnibus final rule modifying the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). The final omnibus rule is based on statutory changes under the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act (HITECH), enacted as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, and the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008 (GINA). The changes in the final rule expand many of the privacy and security requirements to business associates that receive protected health information. Business associates may be liable for the increased penalties for noncompliance based on the level of negligence up to a maximum penalty of \$1.5 million. The changes also strengthen the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health (HITECH) Breach Notification requirements by clarifying when breaches of unsecured health information must be reported to HHS. The modification will make it much more difficult for covered entities and business associates to justify a decision not to notify individuals when an incident occurs. The final rule will likely result in more breaches and more enforcement. AHCA/NCAL General Counsel is currently drafting a more detailed summary of the new rule, which we will distribute soon. To obtain the HHS rule go to <https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2013/01/25/2013-01073/hipaa-privacy-security-enforcement-and-breach-notification-rules>.

HHS Proposes Reinsurance Fee Rule

In December 2012, the US Department of Health (HHS) released a proposed rule that would impose an estimated fee of \$63 per covered life under an employer's major medical health plan. The fee is known as a reinsurance fee. This fee applies to both insured and self-insured plans.

Beginning in 2014, under the proposed rule certain health insurance issuers in the individual and small employer markets would become subject to new restrictions on how they price health insurance and the conditions under which they provide the insurance. These additional restrictions could cause some insurers to cover higher-risk populations and adversely affect insurers' financial situation. The Affordable Care Act (ACA) provides temporary reinsurance payments to insurers who must cover higher-risk populations.

Unfortunately, these reinsurance payments would be funded through the aforementioned reinsurance fee payable by employers. The reinsurance fee would be collected at the federal level and would only last for a three year period (2014-2016). The fee would decrease each year it is in effect.

Plan sponsors of self-funded plans would be expected to submit plan enrollment information to HHS by November 15, 2014. The enrollment information would describe the average number of **covered lives** for the 2014 benefit year. Generally, within 15 days of that submission, HHS would notify the employer of the amount of the reinsurance fee. The employer would then have 30 days to pay the fee to HHS. To obtain a complete copy of the federal register go to <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2012-12-07/pdf/2012-29184.pdf>.

National Provider Call on January 31: CMS National Partnership to Improve Dementia Care

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has developed a national partnership to improve the quality of care provided to individuals with dementia living in nursing care centers. This partnership is focused on delivering health care that is person centered, comprehensive and interdisciplinary.

By improving dementia care through the use of individualized, person-centered care approaches, CMS hopes to reduce the use of unnecessary antipsychotic medications in nursing facilities and eventually other care settings as well. The partnership promotes a systematic process to evaluate each person and identify approaches that are most likely to benefit that individual. While antipsychotic medications are the initial focus of the partnership, CMS recognizes that attention to other potentially harmful medications is also an important part of this initiative.

During this National Provider Call on January 31, 2013, from 12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. CT, CMS subject matter experts will discuss the mission of the national partnership, its goals, quality measures, and ongoing outreach efforts. A question and answer session will follow the presentation.

For more information and to register for the call please visit <http://www.eventsvc.com/blhtechnologies/register/55c99492-6921-4f8b-83a0-8748c499824b>.

CMS Issues Survey and Certification Memo

On January 11, 2013, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a Survey and Certification memorandum (*see attached*) regarding the release of mandatory Surveyor training programs on care of persons with dementia and unnecessary antipsychotic medication use.

The Survey and Certification Group will provide three training programs on care of persons with dementia and unnecessary antipsychotic medication use. The first two will be available after January 19, 2013. A third installment in this series is in development and will be completed this spring. Content includes:

- How to identify whether a systematic, individualized approach was implemented for a resident with dementia.
- How to identify that a systematic process is in place and has been followed for persons with dementia in the facility.
- How to evaluate the role of the consultant pharmacist, physician/NP/PA, medical director, direct care staff, family and other members of the interdisciplinary care team.
- How to identify other associated tags related to care of persons with dementia and unnecessary medication use.

To Access these Videos for Non-Surveyors follow the instructions below:

1. Click <http://surveyortraining.cms.hhs.gov/>.
2. Click on the “I am a Provider” tab.
3. Click on the “Reduction in Unnecessary Medications in Nursing Homes” at the menu at the top of the screen.
4. Click on the program that you wish to view.

Post OSHA Injury and Illness Forms By February 1

Nursing homes are required to post the Occupational Safety and Health Administration – OSHA Form 300A by February 1. The form should be posted in a public area where employees can view it. The report must remain posted through April, 30, 2013. To obtain instructions and forms, visit www.osha.gov/recordkeeping/RKforms.html.

STATE NEWS

Medicaid Eligibility Applications

ANHA has been diligently working with Medicaid leadership regarding the delays in having Medicaid eligibility applications approved. We have been meeting and communicating with Medicaid on this issue and have gotten some reassurances that we should see some relief coming soon. Medicaid is working to hire additional case workers in the district offices to help with the backlog of applications. In addition, Medicaid has asked managers of the 11 district offices to contact nursing home business staff and visit them to review any issues, provide helpful information, establish good contact information and try to overcome any problems they are having in our relationships with our nursing homes. We are encouraged by these actions and strongly urge you to be patient and cooperative with the District Offices. We are hopeful that the meetings between your facilities are beneficial to all parties.

Alabama Board of Nursing: Note to Chief Nursing Officers, Deans/Program Directors of Nursing Programs and School Nurses

It is that time of year again for the Board of Nursing's Annual Report of Employing Agencies. Use this link to find the Word Document and the Access Database.

<http://www.abn.alabama.gov/Content.aspx?id=178>

You can also find it at www.abn.alabama.gov, under "Employer Information."

If your organization is a subscriber to the Board's Online License Verification System, you do not have to complete the Annual Report of Employing Agencies. If your organization does not subscribe, please submit your list of licensed nurses to Andy Stewart, Andy.Stewart@abn.alabama.gov no later than January 31, 2013.

OTHER NEWS

Nursing Home Social Work Webinar on Psychosocial Assessment

We have been notified that a 15-session series dedicated to *Best Practice Nursing Home Social Work Services* began this week. The webinars are targeted toward social service staff members, although anyone is welcome. There is no charge to participate in the webinars, although registration is required. Participants may phone in or listen through their computer speakers. Webinar hand-outs are posted on the website and will be recorded and posted on the site within 24 hours. For more information about the webinar series, go to <http://www.uiowa.edu/~socialwk/NursingHomeResource/index.html>.

Long-Term Care (LTC) Open Door Forum

The next Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF)/Long-Term Care (LTC) Open Door Forum (ODF) is scheduled for February 14, 2013 at 1 pm central.

The ODF addresses the concerns and issues of both the Medicare SNF, the Medicaid NF, and the nursing home profession in general. The types of issues raised during this forum are often related to the Minimum Data Set, SNF Consolidated Billing, the roles and responsibilities of different SNF, NF or LTC professional staff under CMS regulations, clarifications of issues that are covered during a survey and certification process, and the many rules and requirements under which different related services can be payable.

To participate by phone: Dial: 1-800-837-1935 & Reference Conference ID: 78866871.

AHCA Webinar: Helping Nursing Home Residents Pay for Dental Care Through IME

Paying for dental care and services is problematic for the elderly, blind and disabled. The webinar will address issues with obtaining and paying for dental care for the Medicaid population. The speakers will discuss how nursing facility residents enrolled in Medicaid can pay for non-covered dental services through the use of Incurred Medical Expense (IME) and explain

how it works in the long term care setting.

Thursday, January 30, 2013

1:00 – 1:00pm (CST)

Register today at: <http://webinars.ahcancal.org/session.php?id=10178>

Speakers:

- Barbara Smith, Manager, Geriatric and Special Needs Population, Council on Access, prevention & Inter-professional Relations and NECAC member
- Sandra Fitzler, VP Medicaid & Long term Care Policy and NECAC member
- Mike Cheek, Senior Director of Clinical Services
- Greg Folse, President Outreach Dentistry and NECAC member

Learning Objectives:

- Learn about the American Dental Association's Elder Care Advisory Committee and their efforts to improve oral care to nursing home residents.
- Become familiar with oral assessment and care requirements for residents and the reimbursement limitations in providing oral care to the elder.

AHCA Webinar: ACA Update - Employer Obligations and Compliance

Please join the American Health Care Association (AHCA) for a free webinar with speaker Nancy Taylor on January 29, 2013, 1:00PM, central, to understand better the Affordable Care Act (ACA) requirements for employer compliance. The webinar will discuss new information and focus particularly on the March 2013 deadline for communicating available coverage options to employees and the “next steps” for employers who are evaluating what staff is either full- or part-time employees. To learn more and register for the webinar go to <http://webinars.ahcancal.org/session.php?id=10245>.

January 31: Deadline for Applications for AHCA Bronze Quality Award

The deadlines for the American Health Care Association’s (AHCA) [National Quality Award program](#) are just around the corner. January 31 is the deadline for applications for the Bronze Quality Award, and Silver and Gold applications are due February 28, 2013.

AHCA has a great set of tools and resources for applicants. On the [Applicant Resource page](#), members can find links to all of the application materials and key resources, such as the program criteria, webinars, viewing guides, frequently asked questions, and more. Quality Award-specific questions can be directed to quality-award@ahca.org.

Upcoming AHCA Webinar: OSHA and LTC Providers

Date: February 19, 2013 from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. CT

Title: OSHA and Long Term Care Providers: What to Expect and Prepare for in President Obama’s Second Term

Speakers: Bradford Hammock, Attorney at Law, JacksonLewis, LLP

Registration Link: <http://webinars.ahcancal.org/session.php?id=10181>

Over the last four years, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration has been very active particularly in the enforcement arena. By virtually every metric, OSHA enforcement is at historic levels. Long term care providers have been a major focus of the agency's enforcement efforts, with OSHA's Nursing Home National Emphasis Program leading OSHA compliance officers into facilities across the country. As we enter the second four years of OSHA under President Obama, what should the long term care industry expect? Will OSHA continue to target the industry in its enforcement efforts? What new regulatory and other policy initiatives should long term care employers prepare for? This webinar will review the last four years and look ahead to the next four, with a specific focus on the long term care industry and how Association members can prepare for what's next at OSHA.

Learning Objectives:

- Understand what OSHA activities impacting long term care providers have occurred during the past four years.
- Learn what OSHA activities impacting long term care providers can be expected during the next four years.
- Understand how the OSHA Nursing Home National Emphasis Program has impacted and will continue to impact nursing centers.

Registration Open for AHCA Independent Owner Leadership Conference

Don't miss this unique opportunity to meet and discuss all the issues that concern you with the people who understand exactly what you deal with on a day-to-day basis. The American Health Care Association's Independent Owner Leadership Conference will be held March 13-15, 2013, at the Westin Beach Resort & Spa in Fort Lauderdale, FL.

This year, the focus of the Independent Owner (IO) Leadership Conference is on Electronic Health Records (EHR). You'll hear from IOs who have already implemented EHRs. Learn how they did it, what challenges they faced, how much it costs, and why it was useful. You'll have opportunities to ask questions and find out everything you need to know to get started on the process at your facilities. We'll also tie in the use of EHRs with the AHCA Quality Initiative and show you how technology can help you meet the challenges you face and raise the quality of care you provide.

The IO Leadership Conference is for not for profit operators and for profit owners of ten or fewer facilities providing skilled nursing, assisted living, and developmental disability services. Attendees can earn up to 13 CEUs. Registration and attendance for companies and individuals who sell or market products and/or services to provider organizations is limited to sponsors only. AHCA reserves the right to grant final approval for all registrants to attend this conference. Register early and save \$75! The advanced registration deadline is February 15, 2013. For more information or to register online, visit www.io.ahcancal.org

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<u><i>Date</i></u>	<u><i>Event</i></u>	<u><i>Location</i></u>	<u><i>Time</i></u>
January 31	ANHA ACT/SS Board of Directors Annual Retreat – Day 1	ANHA Offices Montgomery	1:00 p.m.
February 1	ANHA ACT/SS Board of Directors Annual Retreat – Day 2	ANHA Offices Montgomery	8:30 a.m.
February 28	ANHA Region III Meeting RSVP: Kevin Ball (205) 788-6330 kball@ballhealth.com Guest Speaker: Robinson-Adams Insurance	Eastview Rehab & Healthcare Center	12:00 p.m.
February 28	ARRTC Road Show	Turenne PharMedCo Offices Montgomery	8:00 am & 12:00 pm
March 13	ARRTC Road Show	Wynfrey Hotel Birmingham	8:00 am & 12:00 pm
April 11	ARRTC Road Show	Westin Hotel Huntsville	8:00 am
April 30	ARRTC Road Show	Perdido Road Show Orange Beach	12:00 pm

Alabama Nursing Home Association
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WEB SITES:

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>