



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, October 25, 2013

ANHA NEWS

Deadline TODAY: Sign up for My InnerView Satisfaction Survey

TODAY, Friday, October 25, is the deadline to sign up for ANHA's statewide initiative to measure nursing home satisfaction in partnership with My InnerView by National Research Corporation.

Please see the attached My InnerView Timeline and Sign Up Form for more details. Remember, this survey is a member benefit, and does not cost your facility.

If you have any questions, contact My InnerView representatives Allison Thomas, athomas@nationalresearch.com, or Teresa Costello, tcostello@nationalresearch.com, or call 800-601-3884.

You may also contact John Matson at the ANHA Office at (334) 271-6214 or jmatson@anha.org.

November 20 Seminar: The Nursing Home Survey Process 2013 Update

Please mark your calendars for November 20, 2013, as ANHA will present a seminar entitled "The Nursing Home Survey Process – 2013 Update." The following items will be covered: MDS 3.0 Update; Proper Discharge Procedures; Handling Complaints and Grievances; Nursing Centers and Hospice Requirements; Voluntary Termination of the Medicare Provider Agreement; Revisit Surveys; Special Focus Facilities; IDRs; Alabama Deficiency Analysis & Common Deficiencies; CMPs; Revised Surveyor Guidance – F155, F322, F309, F172; Life Safety Code Survey Update & OSHA Activities; Revised Guidance F329 and Antipsychotic Medications. This seminar will be held at The Hyatt Regency - The Wynfrey Hotel in Birmingham. The seminar will begin at 8:30 a.m. and conclude at 4:30 p.m. 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.*

Attention Act/SS Convention Attendees

We value your feedback about our convention, and want to hear from you. Please take a few minutes to complete our survey. Your insight and opinions are important! Respond today by clicking the link below. The survey will take approximately 15 minutes to complete.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/Act-SSConventionEval>

NATIONAL NEWS

CDC Report on Antibiotic Resistance Categorizes Threats and Offers Recommendations

In an effort to raise awareness, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released “Antibiotic Resistance Threats in the United States, 2013”

(<http://www.cdc.gov/drugresistance/threat-report-2013/>) the first report on antibiotic resistance and potential consequences of inaction.

The threats are categorized as: urgent, serious, and concerning. The report was written to be accessible to clinicians, consumers, and policymakers. It also includes technical information, references, and web links.

The third section of the report provides summaries of each of the bacteria. These summaries can aid in discussions about each bacteria, how to manage infections, and implications for public health. They also highlight the similarities and differences among the many different types of infections.

Antibiotic resistance also undermines the ability to treat people with infectious complications in patients with other diseases. Among the individuals at highest risk are those undergoing cancer treatment and joint replacements. For more information on drug resistance, visit CDC’s page Antibiotic/Antimicrobial at <http://www.cdc.gov/drugresistance/index.html>.

Learn How to Read/Interpret PEPPER Reports

On August 30, 2013, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) distributed to each individual SNF facility, through its contractor (TMF Health Quality Institute), a Program for Evaluating Payment Patterns Electronic Report (PEPPER). Although these reports have been distributed to other types of health care providers (e.g., hospitals, psychiatric facilities, hospice, etc.), this is the first time that the SNF profession has received PEPPERS, and many AHCA members have questions about how to read and use the report.

To address those member concerns, AHCA has asked the CMS Contractor, Kimberly Hrehor with TMF Health Quality Institute, to provide them with additional information about the history and background of the PEPPER, a description of the risk areas for improper SNF Medicare payments, a discussion of the percentiles and the comparison groups, and a demonstration of how to read and use the report. In order to cover all this material, and allow participants the opportunity to digest the information, AHCA has scheduled two separate webinars that build upon each other on November 7 at 2:00PM (SNF PEPPER Training Part I), CT and November 8 at 2:00PM, CT (SNF PEPPER Training Part II). Please register for the events separately and in advance at <http://webinars.ahcancal.org/session.php?id=11914> for November 7 and <http://webinars.ahcancal.org/session.php?id=11915> for November 8.

STATE NEWS

Medicaid Total System Outage

The Alabama Medicaid system will be unavailable due to scheduled maintenance.

WHEN: Saturday, October 26, 2013, at 6:00 p.m. Central Time

UNTIL: Saturday, October 26, 2013, at 11:30 p.m. Central Time

There will be no claims and eligibility processing or system access by any method during the system maintenance period.

Medicaid RCO Collaborator Web Portal Opens

As directed by state law, the Alabama Medicaid Agency has established new rules and a new web portal for individuals and organizations who wish to cooperate, negotiate, or contract in the establishment of the Agency's planned Regional Care Organizations. The information as it appears on the Agency's website is below.



Apply for a Certificate to Collaborate
Each person or entity who is operating or may operate as a RCO Collaborator shall possess a certificate (Certificate to Collaborate) issued by the Alabama Medicaid Agency qualifying such person or entity to collaborate as set forth in Section 22-6-163 of the Alabama Code.

To apply for a certificate to collaborate as an RCO Collaborator, you must first create a profile in the Agency's online system and then submit your application through the portal.

[Click to Apply](#)

Questions? [Click here to email Medicaid](#)

- [Tutorial on Using the Web Portal to Apply for a Certificate to Collaborate](#)
- [Learn more about Applying for a Certificate to Collaborate](#)

Important Notice Regarding Collaboration
The Agency is not able to provide legal advice regarding the interpretation of Act 2013-261 or any other law. Should you have any questions about the new law you should carefully review the language of the Act with the counsel of your choice.

- [Rule 560-X-62-.01 - Certificate in Order to Collaborate with Other Entities, Individuals, or Regional Care Organizations - Effective 10/11/13](#)

To apply for a certificate, potential collaborators will need to go to the Agency's website and click on the Regional Care Organization icon on the left hand side to access the portal or go directly to

http://www.medicaid.alabama.gov/CONTENT/2.0_newsroom/2.7.3_Regional_Care_Organizations.aspx and follow the directions below.

Questions may be directed to RCOcollaborator@medicaid.alabama.gov or to the Agency's Communication Division at (334) 353-4121. A list of approved collaborators will be posted on the Agency's website. *We are working on getting clarification from Medicaid on what, if anything, our facilities need to do at this time. Please watch for an update next week.*

Medicaid Procedure/Modifier Combination Requirements

Effective October 21, 2013, the Alabama Medicaid Agency will begin use of two new Explanation of Benefit (EOB) codes.

The new EOB codes will be:

EOB 3323 Procedure restriction – Required modifier not present

A procedure code was submitted without the required modifier.

EOB 3324 Procedure restriction – modifier not allowed

A procedure code was submitted with a modifier that is not allowed.

Between October 21, 2013, and November 21, 2013, these codes will be returned as informational messages only. Effective November 22, 2013, claims will be denied when submitted without the correct procedure and modifier combinations.

For **prior authorization** requests entered on the provider web portal, an error message will be returned to the user on the line item panel if the modifier entered for the procedure code is not allowed. In that case, the following online error message will be displayed: “Procedure code and modifier combination entered is invalid for the requested effective dates.”

A user must correct the prior authorization record by removing or changing the modifier that is not allowed while on the line item panel prior to selecting NEXT to move to the next page. The provider manual has additional information concerning billing modifiers for certain services. http://medicaid.alabama.gov/CONTENT/6.0_Providers/6.7_Manuals.aspx

Questions concerning this change may be directed to the Provider Assistance Center at 1-800-688-7989 or your Provider Representative at 1-855-523-9170.

Medicaid Annual Renewals

Some of you who assist families to submit nursing home applications have asked for a heads up on annual renewals that are coming due each month. Beginning in next week, facilities will begin to receive a letter addressed to the *Medicaid Application Counselor* that contains a list of the residents in the facility whose annual renewals are coming due the next month. **Please make sure that letter goes to the staff member who tracks and monitors Medicaid eligibility and assists families with applications and renewals.** The application counselors may assist the family in gathering any information needed to submit the annual renewal; remind family sponsors that Medicaid is up for renewal; or assist in other ways to ensure continued eligibility and care.

Medicaid Update - Expedite Online Web Portal

Members of the Alabama Nursing Home Association have been meeting regularly with Medicaid for over a year on ways to improve the current Medicaid Nursing Home Eligibility process. As a result of our joint efforts we have the following to report:

Expedite Online Web Portal:

1. Remember to attach documents to the applicable page of the expedite application. If you are waiting until you get to the signature page to attach all documentation for the entire application, the system won't know that you have submitted the appointment of representative form. If you indicate in the status of a page that a form is attached, make sure you attach the applicable form to that page.
2. Status matters! “Saved” status just means you have saved it in the queue to return to later. “Submitted” status means you have submitted the application to Medicaid for processing.

3. You may attach more than one appointment of representative form. It may be a good idea to attach one for the nursing home and another signed by a family member. That way there won't be confusion about who submitted an application on behalf of the patient.
4. Internet Explorer version should be IE-9 or newer.
5. If you have an old operating system, you may have to use work-arounds or update the operating system.
6. If you are submitting for more than one nursing home facility, remember that you will need multiple facility codes so that Expedite with route the application to the appropriate Medicaid District Office. You may want to have different user names to keep up with the different facilities, e.g. first initial of your name, last name, and short name for nursing facility.
7. For more information please visit the Medicaid website at www.medicaid.alabama.gov, click "Apply for Medicaid", then "Expedite On Line Nursing Home Application System". You may also try this link:
http://medicaid.alabama.gov/CONTENT/3.0_Apply/3.5_Expedite.aspx. ANHA encourages you to utilize this tool and submit applications via the EXPEDITE System.

ANHA's CareComp Debuts Website

Care Comp, the workers compensation trust fund of the Alabama Nursing Home Association, now has a website: www.care-comp.com. The website provides information about the claims process and allows users to download common forms. For more information, contact Pat Williams at ANHA at (334) 271-6214 or pwilliams@anha.org.

Alabama Conducting Elder Abuse Awareness Survey

The State of Alabama's Interagency Council for the Prevention of Elder Abuse is conducting a statewide survey to gauge the public's awareness of how to recognize and report potential elder abuse. The survey is being led by the Alabama Dept. of Senior Services (ADSS). Groups being surveyed include probate judges, attorneys, caregivers, healthcare providers and citizens. For more information on the survey, please contact ADSS' Virginia Bell, virginia.bell@adss.alabama.gov, or Robyn James, robyn.james@adss.alabama.gov, at (334) 242-5743.

OTHER NEWS



Apply Now for 2014 AHCA National Quality Award

The 2014 AHCA National Quality Award program is gearing up for another exciting and competitive year. Applications are available [online](#). Don't delay - the "Intent to Apply" deadline is November 14, 2013, at 7:00 p.m. CT. Facilities that submit an Intent to Apply save \$200 off the final Quality Award application fee and are signed up to receive exclusive tips from the Quality Award team to help with the application process. Intent to Apply forms are available on the Quality Award website: qa.ahcancal.org. Questions about the Quality Award program or Intent to Apply process can be submitted to quality-award@ahca.org.

Important AHCA National Quality Award Dates:

- Intent to Apply Deadline (not mandatory): November 14, 2013, at 7:00 p.m. CT
- Bronze & Gold Application Deadline: January 30, 2014, at 7:00 p.m. CT
- Silver Application Deadline: February 27, 2014, at 7:00 p.m. CT

AHCA Complimentary Webinars Now Available

Implementing the Affordable Care Act: Understanding Employer Requirements and Compliance Issues

Date & Time: Thursday, November 14, 2013, 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. CT

Speaker: Nicole Fallon, Healthcare Consultant, Clifton Larson Allen

Registration Link: <http://webinars.ahcancal.org/session.php?id=11729>

Session Description: The Affordable Care Act (ACA) implementation is in high gear with Health Insurance Exchanges opening October 1, and the individual mandate to obtain coverage looming. In this webinar, learn what steps providers as employers should be taking in the coming months to prepare to comply, and new ways of evaluating benefit offerings. Please join AHCA and Nicole Fallon of CliftonLarsonAllen for an update on several areas that are critical to the new health insurance marketplaces and what this will mean for providers as employers and from a business perspective. We encourage you to attend this webinar which will cover critical health reform deadlines and implications for providers.

Learning Objectives:

- Understanding the affordability and look-back measurement safe harbors and what they mean to you as an employer.
- Understanding various reporting and notification requirements under the ACA.
- Considering the tax implications for the business and employees of benefit decisions going forward.
- Understanding what plans will meet minimum essential coverage and minimum value under ACA.

AHCA Webinar on Medicare & Medicaid Just Announced!



Webinar title: Medicare and Medicaid Demonstration and Integrated Medicare Plans Landscape and Update

Date & Time: Thursday, November 15, 2013, 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. CT

Speakers: Andrew Gaffner, Actuary, Milliman and Simon Moody, Principle and Consulting Actuary, Milliman

Registration Link: <http://webinars.ahcancal.org/session.php?id=11884>

Session Description: Currently, critical phases of the Medicare-Medicaid Coordination Demonstration such as three-way contracts and open enrollment periods are in place in select states. With the establishment of two new offices under the Affordable Care Act designed to test ways to deliver quality care to Medicare-Medicaid beneficiaries, more states will soon roll out similar coordination demonstrations. Please join us for an update on the evolving Medicare-Medicaid Coordination Demonstration Landscape focused on key characteristics across States in

different phases of the implementation process, focusing on Memorandum of Understandings (MOU) with CMS and the States, and three-way contracts signed in select states.

The webinar will focus on Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) or Contracts, such as:

- Standard rate methodologies for Medicare and differences in Medicaid rate methodologies by state.
- Savings and withhold assumptions for each state along with a state explanation of the assumptions. We will also review and discuss quality measures and incentives, and focus on states with MOUs and Contracts in place.
- Discuss the differences between the populations included the demonstration design in each state.

Learning Objectives:

- Providers will learn how the Medicare-Medicaid Coordination program or “dual-eligible” demonstration has evolved in each State.
- Providers will learn about the status of key characteristics as reflected and possible impact on providers in MOUs or Contracts signed with the State, CMS and health plans, particularly with respect to quality and rate methodologies.
- Providers will be better able to understand basics of how the demonstration is different from other programs currently serving Medicare and Medicaid enrollees, or dual-eligibles. These include Institutional Special Needs Plans, Chronic Care Special Needs Plans, Dual-Eligible Special Needs Plans and Fully Integrated Dual Eligible Plans.

Get Your Fabulous Staff Member Recognized



We all know at least one—a fabulous nurse assistant who is always happy to mentor new CNAs, the administrator who goes out of his way to let his staff know each and every day how much they are appreciated, or the incredible activities director who seems to have an indefatigable ability to come up with creative and innovative activities?

These are the folks that AHCA needs your help identifying for this year’s **20 To Watch** list—folks who have both the compassion and the vision to make a lasting impact on the profession. If you know someone like this, please consider nominating him or her today.

How to Nominate:

Send a message to Managing Editor Meg LaPorte at mlaporte@providermagazine.com with the following information:

1. The candidate’s name, title, company, and location.**
2. A brief explanation of how the candidate has helped (or is currently helping) residents and/or staff achieve their potential.
3. A one- or two-sentence statement about how the candidate has the potential to become a leader within the profession.
4. A brief description of how the candidate has successfully implemented an innovative program that positively impacted residents and/or staff.

The honorees will be featured in the January, February, and March 2014 issues, and a page on Provider’s website will be dedicated to them.

Deadline for nominations: Nov. 14, 2014

For more information, and to see this year's group of 20 To Watch honorees, go to www.providermagazine.com/20-To-Watch/Pages/2014.aspx.

**Please note that all nominees who are staff members at a nursing home or assisted living community must be working for a current AHCA member.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Time</u>
October 29	ANHA Region VI Meeting RSVP: Jennifer Agee (205) 391-3600 or jennifer.agee@northporthealth.com Speaker: Katrina Magdon, ANHA Topic: Regulatory Issues and Hot Topics	ANHA Office Montgomery	12:30 p.m.
October 31	ANHA Region III Meeting RSVP: Kevin Ball (205) 788-6330 or kball@ballhealth.com Guest Speaker: Bill O'Connor, ANHA Executive Director	Hanover Health & Rehab Birmingham	12:00 p.m.

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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>