



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

Wednesday, November 13, 2013

ANHA NEWS

ANHA Office Schedule

The ANHA Office will close at 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 13, due to the ANHA Executive Board Retreat which includes association staff. The office will re-open at 8:00 a.m. on Monday, November 18, 2013.

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.*

Volunteer to Serve on ANHA’s Committees in 2014

Serving on an ANHA’s committee is one of the best ways to have an active role in your association and make a positive impact on the long term care profession. Our association has been successful because of the people like you sharing their ideas and experiences to help guide ANHA’s endeavors.

ANHA needs your participation in order for the committees to be successful. Please review and complete the attached *2014 Committee Request Form* and express your committee preferences. You are encouraged to add key members of your staff to serve on a particular committee.

While completing the form; please indicate your preferences on a scale from 1 to 3 (1 being your first choice and 3 your third choice). Feel free to copy this form if you have more staff members interested in serving than there are spaces available. Please note that those committees marked with an asterisk meet on an as-need basis. Also, it may be necessary to limit the size of a committee in order to conduct business expediently.

To allow time to prepare for the coming year, send your completed form to the Association office by **MONDAY, December 2, 2013**. You can fax the form to (334) 244-6509, e-mail it to kparker@anha.org or mail it to ANHA, 4156 Carmichael Road, Montgomery, AL 36106.

If you have any questions, or if you have items relating to a committee which you wish to discuss, please contact Kerri Parker at the Association office (334) 271-6214 or kparker@anha.org.

NATIONAL NEWS

OSHA's Revised Hazard Communication Standard

The Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA) has revised its Hazard Communication Standard to align with the United Nations Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals. **All nursing centers and assisted living centers must train staff on this new standard by December 1, 2013.** *Attached is a summary of the training requirements and a brief power point presentation that can be used in the required training.* These were prepared by Jackson Lewis LLP, the American Health Care Association's OSHA consultant.

CMS Issues Several Manual Corrections to the MDS

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has made several corrections to the recently-released RAI Manual, v. 1.11, related to therapy coding and the ADL function algorithm.

Changes are found in the:

1. The flowchart "ADL Self-Performance Algorithm," which describes the algorithm for ADL function items in Chapter 3 Section G (page G-7), and the accompanying change table;
2. Coding examples in Chapter 3 Section O (page O-33);
3. A change table page incorrectly transcribed from Chapter 3 Section O (page 3).

CMS has posted three files marked "(R)" for download as part of this errata release. Two of these files are revised and one is a new, additional file. All three files include an "(R)" at the end of the file name. Visit <http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/NursingHomeQualityInits/MDS30RAIManual.html> for more information.

Delay in Use of HIPPS Code Requirements

Medicare Advantage Organizations (MAOs) and other entities were instructed that effective December 1, 2013, dates of service (DOS), the disposition for the HIPPS codes edits would be changed from 'Informational' to 'Reject' for any Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) and Home Health (HH) encounters submitted without the appropriate HIPPS codes. **The purpose of this notification is to let you know that the December 1, 2013 DOS 'Reject' edit will be delayed to July 1, 2014 DOS.** The 'Informational' edit for HIPPS codes would remain in place until that time.

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>.

STATE NEWS

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_Organization.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. *ANHA is working to get clarification from Medicaid on what, if anything, our facilities need to do at this time. Please watch for an updates.*

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 will 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.

Nurse Aide Abuse Registry

Please note that the following individual has been placed on the Alabama Nurse Aide Abuse and/or Sanction Registry. This individual is 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>
Karol Martin	11/5/2013

Christmas Tree Guidance from the Alabama Department of Public Health

As a reminder, the Alabama Department of Public Health passed along the following guidance concerning Christmas trees.

2000 NFPA 1 (Fire Prevention Code), Section 3-9 COMBUSTIBLE VEGETATION, contains the following requirements:

1. Natural cut Christmas trees shall be permitted only in areas protected by an automatic sprinkler system.
2. Artificial Christmas trees shall be labeled or otherwise identified or certified by the manufacturer as being “flame retardant” or “flame resistive.”
3. No Christmas trees shall be allowed to obstruct corridors, exit ways, or other means of egress.
4. Only listed electrical lights and wiring shall be used on Christmas trees and similar decorations.
5. Electric lights are prohibited on metal artificial trees.
6. Open flames, such as from candles, shall not be located on or near Christmas trees or other similar combustible materials.
7. Natural cut Christmas trees shall not be located near fireplaces, heating vents or other heating devices that could cause the tree to dry out prematurely or to be ignited.
8. Where natural trees are permitted, the bottom end of the trunk shall have a straight fresh cut at least 1/2 inch above the original cut end, made immediately prior to the tree's being placed in a suitable stand with adequate water. The water level shall be checked and maintained above the fresh cut on a daily basis. The tree shall be removed from the building immediately upon evidence of dryness.

SAVE THE DATE: ANHA EDUCATIONAL SEMINAR

“Legal Compliance in Nursing Homes” Educational Seminar: January 13

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. *More information regarding this seminar will be forthcoming.*

OTHER NEWS

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:

- Dec. 3, 2013: Embracing the New Dining Practice Standards
<http://webinars.ahcancal.org/session.php?id=11611>: 1:00 p.m. – 2:15 p.m. CST
- 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

Quality Is Our Business Solution: 6th Annual AHCA Quality Symposium

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

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

The education sessions are divided three tracks: Leadership, Measurement & Analysis, and Improving Performance. The education sessions focus on the core elements of both an effective Quality Assurance and Performance Improvement (QAPI) framework and the Baldrige Criteria for Performance Excellence, which are the foundation of the AHCA National Quality Award Program.

With more than 24 education sessions and five intensive sessions available to you, you can earn up to 14.25 NAB-approved administrator CEUs and 7.12 Nursing CEUs (based on a 50-minute clock hour).

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Time</u>
November 14	ANHA Region I Act/SS Auxiliary Meeting RSVP: Kim Allred (256) 352-9100 Speaker Topic: Caring for Residents with Alzheimer's	Logan's Decatur	11:00 a.m.
November 20	ANHA Educational Seminar "Survey Process Update"	Hyatt Regency-Wynfrey Birmingham	

November 22 ANHA Region VII Meeting Felix's Fish Camp 12:00 p.m.
RSVP: Gail McInnish Mobile
251-937-3501, gail.mcinnish@infirmarhealth.org
Guest Speaker: Mobile Medicaid District Office

December 4 ANHA Region VI Act/SS Dadeville Healthcare Center 11:00 a.m.
Auxiliary Meeting Dadeville
RSVP: Katie Morgan (256) 825-9244, ext. 129
Speaker Topic: Tips to Reduce Stress and Improve Health

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>