



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, December 20, 2013

ANHA NEWS



MERRY CHRISTMAS!

The staff of the Alabama Nursing Home Association wishes you a joyful and safe Christmas.

ANHA Office Schedule for Christmas and New Year Holidays

The Alabama Nursing Home Association office will close for Christmas beginning at 12:00 p.m. on Monday, December 23. The Association office will reopen at 8:00 a.m. on Thursday, December 26. The office will close for the New Year's Day holiday beginning at 12:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 31. The Association office will reopen at 8:00 a.m. on Thursday, January 2. The next publication of the *Weekly Roundup* will be Friday, January 10. Happy Holidays!

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.*

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.*

STATE NEWS

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.

Medicaid Pharmacy Changes Effective January 1, 2014

Effective January 1, 2014, the Alabama Medicaid Agency will:

- Limit the number of outpatient pharmacy prescriptions to five total drugs (including up to four brands) per month for adults.** *Children under 21 and nursing home recipients are excluded.* Allowances will be made for up to five additional (10 total) prescriptions for brand and generic antipsychotics, antiretrovirals, and anti-epileptic drugs. In no case can total prescriptions exceed 10 per month/per recipient.
- Implement a mandatory three-month maintenance supply program for selected medication classes.** A maintenance supply prescription will only be counted towards the prescription limit in the month in which it is filled, and will be required after 60 days stable therapy.

The selected classes include:

Medication Class	Medications Included
ACE Inhibitors	Preferred generics and brands
Antidepressants	Preferred generics and brands
Angiotensin II Receptor Blockers	Preferred generics and brands
Asthma	Generic montelukast
Beta Blockers	Preferred generics and brands
Calcium Channel Blockers	Preferred generics and brands
Cardiotonic Agents	Generic digoxin
Contraceptives	Oral, vaginal rings, patches only
Diabetic Agents/Supplies	Generic metformin, generic sulfonylureas, OTC insulins, and syringes
Direct Vasodilators	Generic hydralazine
Diuretics	Preferred generics and brands (now includes spironolactone containing products)
Estrogens	Generic estradiol tablets
Lithium	All covered products
Men's Health	Generic tamsulosin
Potassium Chloride	Generic potassium chloride
Statins	Preferred generics and brands
Platelet Aggregation Inhibitors	Generic clopidogrel
Thyroid Replacement	All covered products

- Reimburse for agents used to promote smoking cessation** in accordance with mandatory coverage required under the Affordable Care Act. These agents will require prior authorization and the recipient must enroll in the Alabama Department of Public Health

Quitline. More information can be found at www.medicaid.alabama.gov under the Pharmacy/DME page.

4. **Cover benzodiazepines and barbiturates (under the PDL) for eligible recipients** in accordance with mandatory coverage required under the Affordable Care Act.
5. **Require prior authorization for payment of generic budesonide (Pulmicort). Brand Pulmicort Respules will be preferred with no PA.** Use Dispense as Written (DAW) Code of 9 for brand Pulmicort Respules. DAW Code of 9 indicates the following: Substitution Allowed by Prescriber but Plan Requests Brand – Patient’s Plan Requested Brand Product to be Dispensed.
6. **Update the Preferred Drug List (PDL) to reflect the recent Pharmacy and Therapeutics (P&T) Committee’s recommendations as well as quarterly updates.**

The updates are listed below:

PDL Additions	
Pulmicort	Respiratory/Orally Inhaled Corticosteroids
PDL Deletions	
Budesonide (generic Pulmicort)	Respiratory/Orally Inhaled Corticosteroids

For additional PDL and coverage information, visit our drug look-up site at <https://www.medicaid.alabamaservices.org/ALPortal/NDC%20Look%20Up/tabId/39/Default.aspx>.

The PA request form and criteria booklet, as well as a link for a PA request form that can be completed and submitted electronically online, can be found on the Agency’s website at www.medicaid.alabama.gov and should be utilized by the prescribing physician or the dispensing pharmacy when requesting a PA.

Providers requesting PAs by mail or fax should send requests to:

Health Information Designs (HID)
Medicaid Pharmacy Administrative Services
P. O. Box 3210 Auburn, AL 36832-3210
Fax: 1-800-748-0116
Phone: 1-800-748-0130

Incomplete PA requests or those failing to meet Medicaid criteria will be denied. If the prescribing physician believes medical justification should be considered, the physician must document this on the form or submit a written letter of medical justification along with the prior authorization form to HID. Additional information may be requested. Staff physicians will review this information.

Policy questions concerning this provider notice should be directed to the Pharmacy Program at (334) 242-5050. Questions regarding prior authorization procedures should be directed to the HID help desk at 1-800-748-0130.

Seniors Taking Action Today (STAT)

Seniors Taking Action Today (STAT) is an exciting new program sponsored by the Alabama Department of Public Health and the Alabama Arthritis Program. STAT provides an opportunity for nursing home employees to be trained and certified as Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program (AFEP) leaders, and for nursing home residents to participate in AFEP courses. AFEP is an evidence-based, low-impact physical activity program proven to reduce pain and decrease stiffness. AFEP covers a variety of activities focusing on areas such as gentle range-of-motion, endurance-building, relaxation and more. The training and certification are FREE to all participating nursing homes. Additionally, the staff will receive a toolkit containing an exercise DVD, exercise equipment and educational resources to be used during resident classes. Program applications are available now. If interested, contact Samille J. Jackson, at (334) 206-5658 or 1-800-252-1818. *STAT is made possible through a grant provided by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.*

NATIONAL NEWS

Congressional Update

Here are three Congressional updates from the American Health Care Association that are of interest to nursing homes:

Budget Agreement

The agreement approved by the House will increase discretionary spending to \$1.012 trillion in the current fiscal year that ends September 2014.

To offset the increase in discretionary spending, the House measure includes the following pay-fors:

- Requires federal workers to pay more into their pensions and change cost-of-living increases for future military retirees;
- Institutes TSA fees from \$2.50 to \$5.00 per ticket; and
- Extends the 2 percent sequestration cut to Medicare through 2022 and 2023.

These pay-fors total approximately \$85 billion, which will pay for the extra \$65 billion in discretionary spending and leave \$23 billion for deficit reduction.

This budget agreement will bring an end to the need to pass continuing resolutions to keep the government funded for a few months at a time. By voting to fund the government through the end of next year, when Congress returns in January, they will be able to turn their attention to other issues.

The Senate is expected to vote on the House budget bill this week. While key Senate Republicans have voiced concern about the increased spending in the bill, our sources indicate that passage is likely.

Short Term Do Fix Included

The House bill also includes a three-month doc fix that extends until March 31, 2014. We are not a pay-for in this short-term doc fix. The cost for the three-month doc fix is \$8.2 billion, paid for in the following ways:

- Rebasing disproportionate share hospital (DSH) payments to save \$4 billion;
- Establishing stricter criteria for long term acute care hospitals (LTACHs) to save \$3 billion;
- Other miscellaneous savings of \$1.2 billion.

Also, both the House Ways & Means and Senate Finance Committees each separately approved legislation permanently addressing the doc fix. A couple points to note:

- Neither panel offered specifics on how the repeal would be paid for, and so, AHCA will continue to monitor further action;
- Neither chamber will be able to pass a permanent measure this year, opting to hold the committee-approved language for a full chamber vote next year.

Therapy Caps

The three-month extension of the doc fix included in the House-passed bill also extends the therapy cap exception and MMR process for three months.

A permanent repeal of therapy caps could also be on the horizon as part of the permanent doc fix proposed by Senate Finance Committee. We are also pleased that the Senate version includes significant relief in the manual medical review process of claims over \$3,700.

The House permanent repeal bill does not currently contain the extenders package, but Ways and Means Chairman Dave Camp indicated they will be added before the bill moves to the House floor.

ICD-10

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>.*

FACILITY NEWS

New Website for Facility News

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:

- Three Questions with Sen. Greg Reed, Chair of the Senate Health Committee
- Woodley Manor Residents Give Back in a Big Way

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.

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>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Time</u>
January 8	ANHA Region III Act/SS Auxiliary Meeting & Election RSVP: Endya Gibbs (205) 796-0214, egibbs@ballhealth.com	Golden Corral Birmingham (Lorna Road)	12:00 p.m.

Alabama Nursing Home Association

4156 Carmichael Road ♦ Montgomery, AL 36106 ♦ PH: (334) 271-6214 ♦ FAX: (334) 244-6509

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>