



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 7, 2012

ANHA NEWS

“2013 Legal Compliance for Nursing Homes” Educational Seminar: January 9

Please mark your calendars for January 9, 2013, as ANHA will present a seminar entitled “2013 Legal Compliance for Nursing Homes.” This seminar will be held at The 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.*

NATIONAL NEWS

Administration Issues New ACA Proposed Rules

The Obama Administration has moved forward and released three new proposed rules to implement the Affordable Care Act (ACA). The first proposed rule released by HHS, *Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; Health Insurance Market Rules; Rate Review*, would prohibit (beginning in 2014) health insurance companies from discriminating against individuals because of a pre-existing or chronic condition or from charging higher premiums to certain enrollees because of their current or past health problems, gender, occupation, and small employer size or industry. The proposed rule also would ensure that people for whom coverage would otherwise be unaffordable, and young adults, have access to a catastrophic coverage plan in the individual market. For more information regarding this rule, visit:

<http://www.healthcare.gov/news/factsheets/2012/11/market-reforms11202012a.html>. To obtain a copy of the proposed rule go to <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2012-11-26/pdf/2012-28428.pdf>.

The second proposed rule released by HHS, *Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; Standards Related to Essential Health Benefits, Actuarial Value, and Accreditation; Proposed Rule*, outlines policies and standards for coverage of essential health benefits, while at the same time, giving states more flexibility to implement the ACA. Essential health benefits are a core set of benefits that would give consumers a consistent way to compare health plans in the individual and small group markets. For more information regarding this rule, visit

<http://www.healthcare.gov/news/factsheets/2012/11/ehb11202012a.html>. To obtain a copy of the

proposed rule go to <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2012-11-26/pdf/2012-28362.pdf>.

The third proposed rule, released by Department of Treasury, Department of Labor and HHS, *Incentives for Nondiscriminatory Wellness Programs in Group Health Plans*, would implement and expand employment-based wellness programs to promote health and help control health care spending, while ensuring that individuals are protected from unfair underwriting practices that could otherwise reduce benefits based on health status. For more information regarding this rule, visit: <http://www.healthcare.gov/news/factsheets/2012/11/wellness11202012a.html>. To obtain a copy of the proposed rule go to <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2012-11-26/pdf/2012-28361.pdf>.

For a copy of the HHS press release on all three proposed rules go to <http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2012pres/11/20121120a.html>.

Proper Administration of Vaccines Including Influenza

Attached is some information regarding the proper administration of vaccines. In addition, this is National Influenza Vaccination Week. The link provides useful information. <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/nivw/>.

REMINDER: CMS Issues Transmittal: Hand in Hand: A Training Series for Nursing Homes on Person-Centered Care of Persons with Dementia and Prevention of Abuse

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has been made aware that some nursing homes may be returning Hand in Hand because they believe they will be charged money to keep it. We have been asked by CMS to communicate to you information regarding the **FREE** distribution of *Hand in Hand*: a high quality training series for nursing homes that emphasizes person-centered care for persons with dementia, as well as the prevention of abuse. These Toolkits will be mailed **FREE** to all nursing homes, CMS Regional Offices and State Survey Agencies by January 2013.

Section 6121 of the Affordable Care Act requires CMS to ensure that nurse aides receive regular training on caring for residents with dementia and on preventing abuse. CMS, supported by a team of instructional designers and subject matter experts, created *Hand in Hand*, the training you will be receiving soon, to address the annual requirement for nurse aide training on these important topics.

CMS' mission is to provide nursing homes with one option for a high-quality program that emphasizes person-centered care for persons with dementia and also addresses prevention of abuse. Person-centered care is about seeing the person first, not as a task to be accomplished or a condition to be managed. It is the fulfillment of the Nursing Home Reform Law to consider each resident's individual preferences, needs, strengths, and lifestyle in order to provide the optimum quality of care and quality of life for each person.

The *Hand in Hand* training materials consist of an orientation guide and six one-hour video-based modules, each of which has a DVD and an accompanying instructor guide. Though *Hand in Hand* is targeted to nurse aides, it has real value for all nursing home caregivers, administrative staff, and anyone who touches the lives of nursing home residents. Thank you for

your commitment to encouraging the use of available materials such as *Hand in Hand* for the required annual training for nurse aides. CMS anticipates that these enhanced training programs will enable you to continuously improve dementia care and prevent abuse, as well as enhance resident and staff satisfaction in your community.

While annual training for nurse aides on dementia care and abuse prevention is required in current nursing home regulations, CMS does not require nursing homes to use the *Hand in Hand* training specifically. Other tools and resources are also available

For information, to download the training modules or inquire about replacement copies of the *Hand in Hand* Toolkit please visit <http://www.cms-handinhandtoolkit.info/Index.aspx>

The sender will not be listed as CMS. Rather, the outside of the package will indicate the sender is Terry Gayden, ICP Systems, LLC, 240 Nat Turner Blvd., Newport News, VA 23606.

If you have questions or comments regarding these materials, please contact cms_training_support@icpsystems.com.

CDC Health Advisory: Health Concerns About Misuse of Pesticides for Bedbug Control

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released a Health Advisory on 11/27/2012 describing incidents of pesticide misuse for bedbug control, resulting adverse health events, and proper treatment practices for bedbugs. The full text of the CDC alert is available at <http://emergency.cdc.gov/HAN/han00336.asp>.

AHRQ Releases Communication Training Tool to Improve Care Safety for Long Term Care Residents

The Agency for Health Research and Quality (AHRQ) release a communication training program called TeamSTEPPS® for nursing homes, assisted living centers and retirement communities. The evidence-based training program *was* developed by AHRQ and the Department of Defense. The teamwork system is designed to improve interdisciplinary collaboration and communication to reduce patient safety risk and hazards. The program helps centers implement a customized plan to train staff in teamwork skills that includes 11 modules plus a supplemental module. The program contains instructor and implementation guides, evaluation tools, pocket guides and more. The program is available in DVD format and can be obtained by sending an e-mail to AHROPubs@ahrq.hhs.gov. For more information, go to <http://www.ahrq.gov/TeamSTEPPStools/longtermcare/>.

STATE NEWS

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.

OTHER NEWS

Brochure Identifies Warning Signs of Financial Exploitation

The recently released “*Protect Your Pocketbook: Tips to Avoid Financial Exploitation*” is a six page brochure that can be used as a tool to educate residents, families, and staff about financial exploitation.

Financial exploitation targeting older adults is a major problem that is growing across the nation. Research shows five million seniors are victims of elder abuse. Financial abuse is believed to cost seniors an estimated \$3 billion annually. The brochure is published by the Administration on Aging, and the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging’ Eldercare Locator.

To obtain copies of this brochure call Eldercare Locator at (800) 677-1116 or visit eldercare.gov or visit the website of the National Center on Elder Abuse at ncea.aoa.gov.

Registration Open for 2013 AHCA Quality Symposium

Registration is now open for the AHCA Quality Symposium. Celebrating its 5th year, the symposium will take place February 11-13, in San Antonio, Texas. The Quality Symposium will provide attendees with practical, real-world ideas and solutions to take back to their work environments. Administrators, corporate staff, directors of nursing, quality managers, and anyone with an interest in examining and improving their processes to achieve excellence across the operational and care spectrums will find value in this unique educational and networking event.

Don’t miss this three-day event and the potential to earn 14.25 CEUs! For more information please visit <http://www.ahcancal.org/events/qualitysymposium/Pages/default.aspx>.

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>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Time</u>
December 7	ANHA Region IV Act/SS Auxiliary Meeting & Election RSVP: Brittney Denny (256) 362-4197 Election for Regional Director & Dirty Santa Game Please bring a \$5.00 gift	Western Sizzlin Oxford	12:00 p.m.
December 14	ANHA Payment for Services Committee Meeting	ANHA Office Montgomery	10:00 a.m.
December 18	ANHA Region IX Meeting RSVP: John Burchfield (205) 343-7104, irma.taylor@northporthealth.com Guest Speaker and one hour CEU credit	Wintzell's Oyster House Tuscaloosa	12:00 p.m.

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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>