



# 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, March 8, 2013

## ANHA NEWS

### Registration Open for Mid-Year Convention

Registration is now open for the 2013 ANHA Mid-Year Convention which will be held April 29-May 2. This event features national and state speakers leading seminars on timely topics of importance to all nursing home staff. *See the attached brochure and registration forms for more information about the education offerings and CEUs.*

### Reserve Your Hotel Room for ANHA Mid-Year Convention

You may now reserve your room at The Perdido Beach Resort for the 2013 ANHA Mid-Year Convention. Reservations can be made online at [www.perdidobeachresort.com](http://www.perdidobeachresort.com) or by calling 1-800-634-8001. Remember to use ANHA group code number 6871. To ensure availability of rooms, all participants are encouraged to make overnight reservations by April 2, 2013.

The following rates have been negotiated for Mid-Year Convention Attendees:

- \$169.00 per Standard/Double Room
- \$229.00 per Gulf Front Single/Double Room

### 2013 Ms. Alabama Nursing Home Pageant Entry Packets Sent to Facilities

ANHA has mailed the 2013 Ms. Alabama Nursing Home Pageant information packet to the Activities/Social Services Department at each facility. The packet was also e-mailed to each facility administrator. If you did not receive a packet, please contact John Matson at (334) 271-6214 or [jmatson@anha.org](mailto:jmatson@anha.org) to request a copy.

### April 1 is the Deadline for 2013 ANHA Dues

Monday, April 1 is the deadline for payment of the 2013 ANHA membership dues. Facilities that have not paid their dues in full or have not established a payment plan may be dropped from the membership. Please contact Pat Williams at the Association Office at (334) 271-6214 or [pwilliams@anha.org](mailto:pwilliams@anha.org) if you have any questions or want to set up a payment plan.

### 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, we will be jointly presenting seminars across the state.

This specific ARRTC Road Show is a three (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. 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.

The 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:

March 13	Birmingham	8:00 a.m. and repeated at 12:00 p.m.
April 11	Huntsville	8:00 a.m.
April 30	Orange Beach	1:00 p.m.

*Please see the attached flyers for registration information.*

### **“OSHA Recordkeeping and Workplace Safety for Long Term Care Facilities” Educational Seminar - April 3**

Please mark your calendars for April 3, 2013, as ANHA will present a seminar entitled “OSHA Recordkeeping and Workplace Safety for Long Term Care Facilities.” This seminar will be held at The Wynfrey Hotel in Birmingham. The seminar will begin at 9:00 a.m. and conclude at 3:00 p.m. This program has been approved for 5 hours of continuing education credits by the Alabama Board of Examiners for Nursing Home. It has also been approved for 6 contact hours of continuing education for nurses. The Alabama Nursing Home Association is an approved provider by the Alabama Board of Nursing (ABNP0151- expires 3/12/2017). *Please see the attached flyer for more information.*

### **AIT/Preceptor Certification & Recertification Training Seminar – April 2**

The “AIT/Preceptor Certification and Recertification Training” Seminar will be presented on April 2, 2013, at The Wynfrey Hotel in Birmingham. All individuals interested in becoming a licensed nursing home administrator must complete a board approved Administrator-In-Training (AIT) Program. The Board has rules and regulations regarding entry-level requirements for nursing home administrators, the length of the AIT program for applicants and the qualifications for becoming a certified preceptor. This session is designed to certify licensed nursing home administrators who are interested in conducting an AIT program in their facility as preceptors.

In order to qualify to become a certified preceptor, individuals must have been a licensed and practicing administrator in Alabama for at least three years, or have been a licensed nursing home administrator for at least two years in another state and have been licensed and practicing in Alabama for at least one year, with no disciplinary action having been taken against them in the last three years. Preceptor certification and re-certification, once approved, lasts for three years. This seminar has been approved for 3 hours of CEUs for nursing home administrators. *Please see the attached flyer for more details.*

### **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. Nominations are due April 19.

## **NATIONAL NEWS**

### **S&C Memo: Resources Available for New Dining Standards of Practice**

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has issued the attached S&C memo with information regarding resources available to support the new dining practice standards. These standards address issues including expanding dining, therapeutic diets, food consistency, thickened liquids and tube feedings. The memo notes that, "Research presented revealed little benefit to many older individuals with chronic conditions from restrictions in dietary sugar and sodium, as well as little benefit from tube feedings, pureed diets and thickened liquids. The new standards recommend to clinicians and prescribers that a regular diet become the default with only a small number of individuals needing restrictions."

The memo provides links to the complete practice standards document and to a surveyor training video that introduces the 10 categories of changes.

While CMS notes that the new practice standards do not represent CMS requirements, they encourage surveyors to be aware of these changes as Quality of Care compliance is to be reviewed based on standards of practice. They also state that, "Surveyors should not issue deficiency citations simply because a facility is not following these particular recommended practices. However, facilities that opt to adhere to these practice standards may rely on such adherence in response to questions regarding any changes from more restrictive diet protocols previously used."

### **CMS Issues Directive for Prepayment Review for Therapy Claims at Threshold**

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) updated its Manual Medical Review website (<http://www.cms.gov/research-statistics-data-and-systems/monitoring-programs/medical-review/therapycap.html>) and directed the Medicare administrative contractors (MACs) to conduct *prepayment review* on the Medicare therapy claims reaching the \$3,700 threshold. CMS requested that MACs conduct these manual medical reviews within 10 days.

CMS also indicated that this prepayment review was an interim measure and that it is developing a long-term strategy to deal with manual medical review.

The American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012 (ATRA) extends the Medicare Part B outpatient therapy cap exceptions process through December 31, 2013. Section 603 of this Act contains a number of Medicare provisions affecting the outpatient therapy caps and manual medical review threshold.

The statutory Medicare Part B outpatient therapy cap for occupational therapy (OT) is \$1,900 for 2013, and the combined cap for physical therapy (PT) and speech-language pathology services (SLP) is also \$1,900 for 2013. This is an annual per-beneficiary therapy cap amount determined for each calendar year. Exceptions to the therapy cap are allowed for reasonable and necessary therapy services. Per beneficiary, services above \$3,700 for PT and SLP services combined and/or \$3,700 for OT services are subject to manual medical review. CMS is not precluded from reviewing therapy services below these thresholds.

The therapy cap applies to all Part B outpatient therapy settings and providers including:

- Therapists' private practices
- Offices of physicians and certain nonphysician practitioners
- Part B skilled nursing facilities (type of bill (TOB) 42X, 43X,44X)
- Home health agencies (TOB 34X)
- Rehabilitation agencies (also known as outpatient rehabilitation facilities or ORFs)
- Comprehensive outpatient rehabilitation facilities (CORFs)
- Hospital outpatient departments (HOPDs) (TOB 12X or 13X)

CMS is developing a long-term strategy to deal with manual medical review. At this time, there is no advance request for an exception process. Additional information will be provided on the MAC websites.

Section 603 (b) of the American Tax Relief Act counts outpatient therapy services furnished in a critical access hospital (CAH) toward a beneficiary's annual cap and threshold amount using the Medicare physician fee schedule rate. CAHs are not subject to the therapy cap, the manual medical review process, or the use of the KX modifier. You can contact CMS with questions about the therapy cap and new threshold via a designated email box at [therapycapreview@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:therapycapreview@cms.hhs.gov).

### **REMINDER: Part B Functional G Code Reporting Started January 1, 2013 *Functional Reporting Testing Period Through June 30, 2013***

The Middle Class Tax Relief and Jobs Creation Act of 2012 (MCTRJCA), Section 3005(g) required a **claims-based data collection strategy that is designed to assist in reforming the Medicare payment system for outpatient therapy services.**

The statute requires that:

“The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall implement, beginning on January 1, 2013, a **claims-based data collection strategy that is designed to assist in reforming the Medicare payment system for outpatient therapy services** subject to the limitations of section 1833(g) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395l(g)). Such strategy shall be designed to provide for the collection of data on patient function during the course of therapy services in order to better understand patient condition and outcomes.”

Attached in a single document are CMS MLN Matters #8005 and the related Change Request #: CR 8005. These documents address in detail the services affected, the mobility G-code set, severity complex modifiers etc. We also have attached the CMS PowerPoint presentation from the National Provider Call last December 12, 2012.

Note that while this functional data reporting and collection system is effective for therapy services with dates of service on and after January 1, 2013, **a testing period will be in effect from January 1, 2013, through June 30, 2013, to allow providers to use the new coding requirements in order to assure that their systems work.** During this time period claims without G-codes and modifiers will be processed.

Below are a few key points:

- CMS' implementation will include both 1) the reporting of data by therapy providers and practitioners furnishing therapy services, and 2) the collection of data by the contractors.
- These reporting requirements apply to the therapy services furnished by the following providers: hospitals, Critical Access Hospitals, **Skilled Nursing Facilities**, Comprehensive Outpatient Rehabilitation Facilities, rehabilitation agencies, and Home Health Agencies (when the beneficiary is not under a home health plan of care). It also applies to the following practitioners: Therapists in Private Practice, physicians, and NPPs as noted above.
- This reporting and collection system requires claims for therapy services to include nonpayable G-codes and related modifiers.
- These non-payable G-codes and severity/complexity modifiers provide information about the beneficiary's functional status at:
  - The outset of the therapy episode of care,
  - Specified points during treatment, and
  - The time of discharge.
- These G-codes and related modifiers are required on specified claims for outpatient therapy services – not just those over the therapy caps.
- This functional data reporting and collection system is effective for therapy services with dates of service on and after January 1, 2013. However, a testing period will be in effect from January 1, 2013, through June 30, 2013, to allow providers to use the new coding requirements in order to assure that their systems work. During this time period claims without G-codes and modifiers will be processed.
- A separate CR (and related MLN Matters article) will be issued regarding the editing required for claims with therapy services on and after July 1, 2013, at which time Medicare will begin returning and rejecting claims, as applicable, that do not contain the required functional G-code/modifier information.

### **Free Influenza Vaccine for 2013-2014 Season for Participation in Study of Vaccine Effectiveness**

A team of nationally recognized long term care researchers at Brown University is conducting a national study to evaluate the effectiveness of the annual influenza vaccine choice on long term care facility residents' hospitalization risk for this fall's (2013-2014) influenza season. Nursing facilities that participate will be allocated to receive free either the standard dose annual trivalent influenza vaccine or the high dose trivalent influenza vaccine. Both of these vaccines are recommended by the CDC for annual protection against influenza infection in adults. *Facilities*

*will receive a free supply of vaccine for all their residents for the 2013-2014 annual vaccination and financial compensation for data entry.*

If you are interested in participating or want more information, please contact the study coordinating center, Insight Therapeutics, as soon as possible by calling (757) 625-6040, or e-mailing Edward Davidson, PharmD, MPH, at [edavidson@inther.com](mailto:edavidson@inther.com).

## **STATE NEWS**

### **Medicaid Estate Recovery Reviews**

Health Management Systems (HMS) has been contracted by Alabama Medicaid to perform estate recovery services. These services are for the recovery of medical assistance payments from the estates of certain deceased Medicaid recipients and/or their spouses. Nursing home providers will soon be receiving letters or a questionnaire from HMS requesting information in order to recover the costs of Medicaid services, when it is appropriate. HMS is working as an authorized agent for the Alabama Medicaid Agency and security agreements are in place for a provider to be able to release recipient and sponsor information to HMS.

Providers are asked to complete requests from HMS within two weeks of receipt of the notice. Questionnaires must be completely filled out with all requested documentation and faxed to (855) 809-3983 or mailed to HMS, The Alabama Medicaid Estate Recovery Contractor, P.O. Box 166709, Irving, TX 75016-6709. Any questions about any letter or questionnaire should be referred to HMS at (855) 543-8395. Any questions that need to be directed to the Agency regarding the estate recovery services being performed by HMS can be directed to Keith Thompson at (334) 242-5248.

### **Medicaid Update**

There seems to be some confusion about Medicaid not having this information available to the public or to nursing homes. ANHA has been asked to help spread the word with the document references below. Medicaid has been working diligently with ANHA and its members. Their managers, directors and deputy commissioners have been visiting nursing homes around the state asking about issues and any problems that they are having with Medicaid. Whenever it has learned about a worker asking for too much information or redundant information, or received a complaint about poor communication; Medicaid has addressed that with the manager so that consistency and improvements are achieved. Medicaid is addressing each complaint and is performing due diligence when issues are found by requesting counseling for the worker or providing additional training. ANHA is pleased with Medicaid's efforts. In our efforts of joint communication, we encourage you to utilize the references listed below.

Tips for Applying for Nursing Home Medicaid:

[http://www.medicaid.alabama.gov/documents/3.0\\_Apply/3.2\\_Qualifying\\_Medicaid/3.2\\_Nursing\\_Home\\_Medicaid\\_App\\_Tips\\_11-5-12.pdf](http://www.medicaid.alabama.gov/documents/3.0_Apply/3.2_Qualifying_Medicaid/3.2_Nursing_Home_Medicaid_App_Tips_11-5-12.pdf)

Helpful information: Medicaid for the Elderly and Disabled:

[http://www.medicaid.alabama.gov/documents/3.0\\_Apply/3.2\\_Qualifying\\_Medicaid/3.2\\_Medicai\\_d\\_Elderly\\_Disabled\\_2013\\_1-14-13.pdf](http://www.medicaid.alabama.gov/documents/3.0_Apply/3.2_Qualifying_Medicaid/3.2_Medicai_d_Elderly_Disabled_2013_1-14-13.pdf)

## Alabama Medicaid Provider Alert: Primary Care Provider Rate Increase

A major provision of the Affordable Care Act requires Alabama Medicaid to reimburse certain *primary care physicians* at parity with Medicare for services provided between January 1, 2013, and December 31, 2014. *Attached is the latest Medicaid Provider Alert that addresses this issue.*

## 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](http://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>
Amy Michelle Patrick	2/20/13

## Important Information from the Alabama State Board of Nursing

The 2013 Annual Report of Standardized Procedures Report reflecting care provided in 2012 is now available online. As with previous reports, the 2013 report requires the CNO to update the report submitted for 2012 with edits, deletions or additions, thus decreasing the time factor for completion.

***NOTE: If your facility/agency/company is part of a larger corporation, please contact your Corporate Nurse before proceeding. The Corporate Nurse may be completing one report for all facilities/agencies or companies within your corporation.***

*As in 2012, facilities classified as Rural Health Clinics, FQHCs, Assisted Living and Specialty Care Assisted Living facilities are **NOT** required to report.*

To access the 2013 report, go to the ABN website ([www.abn.alabama.gov](http://www.abn.alabama.gov)); From the title bar or top menu, select **Nursing Practice**; select **Standardized Procedures**. Then click on the **2013 Standardized Procedures** link from the menu on the LEFT side of the page.

The **deadline** for the 2013 Annual Report of Standardized Procedures for Hospitals, Nursing Homes, Ambulatory Surgery Centers, Home Health, Hospice, ESRDs, Medical Transport Companies, Abortion Centers, Infusion Companies and the State Correctional facilities is **April 15, 2013**. Please contact Carolyn Morgan for any questions at [carolyn.morgan@abn.state.al.us](mailto:carolyn.morgan@abn.state.al.us) or (334) 293-5200.

# FACILITY NEWS

## National Nursing Home Week T-Shirts

Jones Sportswear is offering National Nursing Home Week t-shirts. *Please see the attached flyer from Jones Sportswear for more information.* NNHW begins on Mother's Day, May 13 and lasts until May 19.

## Golden LivingCenter Arab Earns Deficiency Free Survey!



Golden LivingCenter Arab recently earned a deficiency free health survey! Mark Tuggle is the Administrator and Tammy Goble is the Director of Nursing. The facility is located in Arab and owned by Golden Living. Congratulations to the staff of Golden LivingCenter Arab on this outstanding accomplishment!

## OTHER NEWS

### **AHCA Compliance and Ethics Webinar: March 11 at 1:00 p.m.**

The American Health Care Association is sponsoring a webinar; *Deconstructing Corporate Compliance & Ethics for Single Facilities and Small Regional Chains*, on March 11, 2013, at 1:00 p.m. Carol Rolf, partner in Rolf Goffman Martin Lang LLP, and General Counsel to the Ohio affiliate, will be the featured speaker. She will discuss how providers move forward to design and implement an effective corporate compliance and ethics program by March 23, 2013, as mandated by the Affordable Care Act. Carol Rolf, partner in, will be the featured presenter.

The learning objectives include:

1. Understand how a strong Corporate Compliance & Ethics Programs improves quality;
2. Know the first steps to take in developing a Corporate Compliance & Ethics Program;
3. Learn the 7 elements critical to implementing an efficient Corporate Compliance & Ethics Program; and
4. Focus specifically on screening and internal monitoring and auditing - - both critical areas from the federal government's perspective.

While large companies have had compliance programs for many years, smaller chains and single homes may not have yet established a formal plan. Compliance is well known and well-practiced in most nursing facilities. Adoption of a "compliance program" should not be an overwhelming task. It is a matter of identifying what aspects of the program are already largely in place and which aspects need to be further developed and then designed into a program that makes sense for your organization. To register, visit <http://webinars.ahcancal.org/session.php?id=10512>.

### **New ACO Webinar Series in Partnership with the Advisory Board Company**

The American Health Care Association (AHCA) has partnered with The Advisory Board Company to provide members with two new webinars on Accountable Care Organizations (ACOs). The ACO market is rapidly evolving, and AHCA continues to stay on top of emerging trends in order to provide the most relevant, up-to-date information for post-acute and long term care providers. The Advisory Board is a health care research and consulting firm and one of the leading authorities on delivery system and payment reform.

The first webinar, “*Preparing Post-Acute Providers for Accountable Payment*,” will explore the new incentives providers will face, the levers they must employ to excel in a market that rewards value over volume, and the key implications for post-acute and long term care providers.

Members will learn about:

- The current state of risk-based payment adoption in the United States
- Delivery system responses to changing market incentives
- The implications of payment and delivery system evolution for post-acute and long term care providers
- Six critical imperatives to position for market success

This first webinar will take place on **Wednesday, March 20, at 12:00 p.m.** Click here to register: <http://ns.advisory.com/Post-Acute-Care-Collaborative-Webconference-Preparing-post-acute-providers-for-accountable-Direct>

The second webinar will take place on Wednesday, May 8, at 12:00 p.m., and additional information and a registration link will be provided closer to that date.

### **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 \$75.00! The advanced registration deadline is February 15, 2013. For more information or to register online, visit [www.io.ahcancal.org](http://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>
March 8	ANHA Region VII Act/SS Auxiliary Meeting RSVP: Janet Daughdrill (251) 471-5431, ext. 5011 Guest Speaker Topic: Humorous Ways to Cope with Stress	Felix's Fish Camp Mobile	11:30 a.m.
March 13	ARRTC Road Show Disaster Training	Wynfrey Hotel Birmingham	8:00 am & 12:00 pm
April 11	ARRTC Road Show Disaster Training	Westin Hotel Huntsville	8:00 am
April 25	ANHA Region III Meeting RSVP: Kevin Ball (205) 788-6330 <a href="mailto:kball@ballhealth.com">kball@ballhealth.com</a> Guest Speaker from Alabama Medicaid Agency	Kirkwood by the River Birmingham	12:00 p.m.
April 29- May 2	ANHA Mid-Year Convention	Perdido Beach Resort Orange Beach	
April 30	ARRTC Road Show Disaster Training	Perdido Road Show Orange Beach	1:00 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>