



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, April 19, 2013

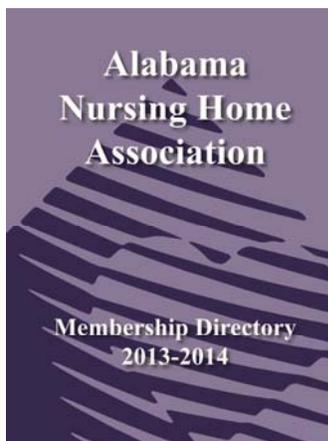
ANHA NEWS

Pre-Registration Ends TODAY!

Final Day to Pre-Register for Mid-Year Convention

The deadline to pre-register for the ANHA Mid-Year Convention is TODAY, Friday, April 19. After today, you will have to register on-site at the convention. The convention will be held April 29-May 2 at the Perdido Beach Resort in Orange Beach, AL. *See the attached brochure and registration forms for more information.*

2013-2014 ANHA Membership Directory now Available



The 2013-2014 ANHA Membership Directory is now available for purchase. This is Alabama's most comprehensive listing of nursing homes. Complimentary copies were mailed to each member and associate member this week.

Please see the attached order form if you would like to purchase additional copies.

Copies of the directory will be available for purchase at the Mid-Year Convention.

Disaster Training for Nursing Homes: Only One Event Remains

ANHA and the National Center for Disaster Medical Response at the University of South Alabama's Center for Strategic Health Innovation have developed a training program for nursing homes. In addition, we have jointly prepared a Disaster Planning Guidance Manual regarding Sheltering in Place and Evacuations.

The manual is being rolled out at a three (3) hour course for administrators and key nursing home staff. The goal is to bring ARRTC training on site to healthcare facilities across the state; and to invite response partners to the training to establish a knowledge of disaster response.

Key topics include: Intro to Hospital Incident Command System, National Incident Management System and National Response Framework; NIMS Compliance Requirements; Alabama Incident Management System; 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 seminar is FREE, but registration is required! The training will be held at the following date and time:

April 30 Orange Beach 1:00 p.m.

Please see the attached flyer for registration information.

Nominations Due TODAY: 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 TODAY, April 19.

NATIONAL NEWS

FY 2013 Sequestration Adjustments for Survey & Certification

On April 5, CMS issued a Survey & Certification memorandum (*see attached*) addressing FY 2013 Adjustments for Survey & Certification as a result of the sequestration adjustments (that is, financial reductions to the federal agencies).

When you read the memo, please pay particular attention to the following: item #3, *Revisit Surveys*; item #5, *Special Focus Facility (SFF) Nursing Homes*; and item #7, *Life Safety Code (LSC) in Nursing Homes*. A very brief summary of each item follows.

Revisit Surveys: According to this memo, the State Survey Agencies will require Regional Office approval before conducting any second (or more) onsite revisits when a first revisit found the provider had not restored its program to substantial compliance. Also, there may be longer wait times before revisits are conducted.

Special Focus Facility (SFF) Nursing Homes: Each State Survey Agency is directed to schedule a final "last chance" onsite survey for those facilities that have been on the SFF list for more than 18 months and have failed to improve. Additionally, when an SFF has graduated or been terminated from the program, the state is not to select a replacement SFF unless directed to do so by the CMS Regional Office.

Life Safety Code in Nursing Homes: An abbreviated LSC survey may be used for certain nursing homes (as identified by CMS) if the state chooses to take advantage of this option. (*At this time we are unsure if any facilities in Alabama qualify for this abbreviated survey. The list from CMS has yet to be released.*)

CMS Releases FAQs

Attached is a copy of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) issued by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) regarding Manual Medical Review Claims. ANHA hopes you find this information beneficial.

CMS Issues Power Point on \$3,700 Part B Therapy Threshold Overview

Attached is a copy of a power point presentation issued by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) regarding the \$3,700 Part B Therapy Threshold. ANHA hopes you find this information beneficial.

CDC Alert Shortage of Tuberculin Skin Test

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has reported a national shortage of tuberculin skin test, Tubersol, a product of Sanofi Pasteur Limited. The shortage is expected to remain until the end of May. Sanofi notified the FDA that 50-dose vials of Tubersol are unavailable and supplies of 10-dose vials are limited. For more information, visit <http://emergency.cdc.gov/HAN/han00345.asp>.

Q & A on Mandatory Medicare Payment Reductions “Sequestration”

As required by law, President Obama issued a sequestration order on March 1, 2013, requiring across-the-board reductions in federal spending.

In general, Medicare FFS claims with dates-of-service or dates-of-discharge on or after April 1, 2013, will incur a two percent reduction in Medicare payments. Therefore, to prevent making overpayments, interim and pass-through payments related to the Medicare cost report will be reduced by two percent. Beginning April 1, 2013, the two percent reduction will be applied to periodic interim payments (PIP), critical access hospital (CAH) and cancer hospital interim payments, and pass-through payments for graduate medical education, organ acquisition, and Medicare bad debts.

Medicare Part A sequestration details and Q & As are shown below:

Question: How is the 2% payment reduction under sequestration identified on the electronic remittance advice (ERA) and the standard paper remittance (SPR)?

Answer: Claim adjustment reason code (CARC) 223 is used to report the sequestration reduction on the ERA and SPR.

Question: Will the 2% reduction be reported on the remittance advice in a separate field?

Answer: For institutional Part A claims, the adjustment is reported on the remittance advice at the claim level. For Part B physician/practitioner claims and institutional provider outpatient claims, the adjustment is reported at the line level.

Question: How will the payments be calculated on the claims?

Answer: The reduction is taken from the calculated payment amount, after the approved amount is determined and the deductible and coinsurance are applied.

Example: A provider bills a service with an approved amount of \$100.00, and \$50.00 is applied to the deductible. A balance of \$50.00 remains. We normally would pay 80% of the approved amount after the deductible is met, which is \$40.00 ($\$50.00 \times 80\% = \40.00). The patient is

responsible for the remaining 20% coinsurance amount of \$10.00 ($\$50.00 - \$40.00 = \10.00). However, due to the sequestration reduction, 2% of the \$40.00 calculated payment amount is not paid, resulting in a payment of \$39.20 instead of \$40.00 ($\$40.00 \times 2\% = \0.80).

Question: How are unassigned claims affected by the 2% reduction under sequestration?

Answer: Though beneficiary payments toward deductibles and coinsurance are not subject to the 2% payment reduction, Medicare's payment to beneficiaries for unassigned claims is subject to the 2% reduction. The non-participating physician who bills on an unassigned basis collects his/her full payment from the beneficiary, and Medicare reimburses the beneficiary the Medicare portion (e.g., 80% of the reduced fee schedule amount. NOTE: The "reduced fee schedule" refers to the fact that Medicare's approved amount for claims from non-participating physicians/practitioners is 95% of the full fee schedule amount). This reimbursed amount to the beneficiary would be subject to the 2% sequester reduction just like payments to physicians on assigned claims. Both are claims payments, just to different parties. If the limiting charge applies to the service rendered, physicians/practitioners cannot collect more than the limiting charge amount from the beneficiary.

Example: A non-participating provider bills an unassigned claim for a service with a limiting charge of \$109.25. The beneficiary remains responsible to the provider for this full amount. However, sequestration affects how much Medicare reimburses the beneficiary. The non-participating fee schedule approved amount is \$95.00, and \$50.00 is applied to the deductible. A balance of \$45.00 remains. Medicare normally would reimburse the beneficiary for 80% of the approved amount after the deductible is met, which is \$36.00 ($\$45.00 \times 80\% = \36.00). However, due to the sequestration reduction, 2% of the \$36.00 calculated payment amount is not paid to the beneficiary, resulting in a payment of \$35.28 instead of \$36.00 ($\$36.00 \times 2\% = \0.72).

Question: Is this reduction based on the date of service or date of receipt?

Answer: In general, Medicare FFS claims with dates-of-service or dates-of-discharge on or after April 1, 2013, will incur a two percent reduction in Medicare payment. Claims for durable medical equipment (DME), prosthetics, orthotics, and supplies, including claims under the DME Competitive Bidding Program, will be reduced by two percent based upon whether the date-of-service, or the start date for rental equipment or multi-day supplies, is on or after April 1, 2013.

Question: Does the 2% payment reduction under sequestration apply to the payment rates reflected in Medicare fee-for-service fee schedules or does it only apply to the final payment amounts?

Answer: Payment adjustments required under sequestration are applied to all claims after determining the Medicare payment including application of the current fee schedule, coinsurance, any applicable deductible, and any applicable Medicare secondary payment adjustments. All fee schedules, pricers, etc., are unchanged by sequestration; it's only the final payment amount that is reduced.

FACILITY NEWS

Prattville Health & Rehab Cuts Ribbon on New Rehab Wing



Prattville Health & Rehab recently held a ribbon cutting and open house to showcase its new 20,000 square foot rehabilitation unit. The addition features a 2,000 square foot gym and 33 private rooms with private baths, flat screen televisions and hardwood and carpeted floors. The facility is owned by NHS Management.

Three Nursing Homes Win Alabama Performance Excellence Awards

Three ANHA member nursing homes recently received Alabama Performance Excellence Awards. The program is modeled after the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award. It recognizes organizations that use effective productivity and quality improvement strategies, techniques or practices which can be shared with other organizations to help contribute to the overall economic well-being in the state of Alabama. The award is administered by the AlaQuest Center for Performance Excellence.



NHC Health Care Anniston received the Level Three: Alabama Excellence Award. Pictured from left to right are Administrator Becky Helton, Dir. of Nursing Deborah Gaskey, Social Services Dir. Dana Hanshaw, Office Manager Crystal Magaw and Dietitian Shaun Strickland.



Canterbury Health Facility in Phenix City received the Level Two: Progress Towards Excellence Award. Pictured from left to right are Regional CQI Directors Kathi Duke and Barbara Adamson, AlaQuest Director Linda Vincent, Canterbury Administrator Mary Wahlert and Laura James, Director of Nursing.



NHC Health Care Moulton received the Level Two: Progress Towards Excellence Award. Pictured from left to right on the front row are Luci Terry, Keely Stallings and Jeanne Elkins. Pictured from left to right on the back row are Angela Smith, Lesley Shelton and Danielle Medvec.

STATE NEWS

Nurse Aide Abuse Registry

Please note that the following individuals have been placed on the Alabama Nurse Aide Abuse and/or Sanction Registry. These individuals are 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>
LaTiffany Marsh	4/11/13
Khaliah Weathers	4/11/13
Elizabeth McNeil	4/11/13

Requirement for Corridor Width when Doors are Fully Open

Editor's Note: The following article was provided by the Alabama Department of Public Health's Division of Technical Services.

The 2000 NFPA 101, Life Safety Code, requires corridor doors to open back against the wall so that they "shall not project more than 7 inches into the required width of an aisle, corridor, passageway, or landing, when fully open," per paragraph 7.2.1.4.4. (The 7-inch measurement does not include door latching hardware mounted on the door.)

This deficiency falls under K38 during a Life Safety Code survey conducted by the Alabama Department of Public Health. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has indicated that, if there are no other ways to correct this situation, a door that projects more than 7 inches will be acceptable if a closer is installed on the door, so that the door will not remain in the open position.

If you have questions about this, contact Victor Hunt at 334-206-5218, or victor.hunt@adph.state.al.us.

ADPH: Reporting Abuse, Neglect and Misappropriation of Property

Editor's Note: The following article was provided by the Alabama Department of Public Health's Division of Health Care Facilities.

In an effort to save nursing facilities time and to accelerate the investigative review process, the Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) is requesting that specific information be included in the facility's five (5) day report. In particular, ADPH requires certain information pertaining to the named perpetrator in the reporting of abuse, neglect or misappropriation of property.

That information is as follows:

- The alleged perpetrator's full name
- Most current address known
- Social Security Number
- Date of birth
- Telephone number(s) (Note: If available, provide alternate telephone numbers such as their cell phone and the name and telephone number of the person designated to contact in case of an emergency.)
- Full name of witnesses with direct knowledge of the incident
- Most current address known
- Telephone number(s) (See note above)

Additionally, within the facility's investigation, the facility must provide a conclusion to their investigation. That conclusion should be specific to whether or not the facility was able to identify adequate proof that abuse, neglect or misappropriation of property occurred. For example, in many cases, the behavior of the named perpetrator is accurately concluded to be inappropriate, unprofessional, rude and/or in violation of the facility's policies and procedures and standards of care. In these cases, the named perpetrator's behavior would not have risen to the level of abuse as is defined by CMS in the State Operations Manual.

By providing such information as requested, the facility will often prevent the loss of a substantial amount of time supplying that information by telephone. It will also reduce the time and expense incurred when that information is provided by mail or parcel service. This cooperative effort will help in preventing delays and will enable ADPH to better expedite the investigation review process.

NATIONAL NURSING HOME WEEK

New Twist on National Nursing Home Week



The roots of National Nursing Home Week (NNHW) are a singular focus to honor the seniors and other residents served by the long term and post-acute care community. For 2013, this tradition recognizes that residents and families can play a vital role in care planning and its daily implementation.

That sentiment is spotlighted by our 2013 theme of "Team Care: Everyone Pitches In!"

Throughout the week of May 12–18, 2013, skilled nursing facilities across the nation will celebrate NNHW with open houses, tours welcoming VIPs and the community’s “friends of long term and post-acute care,” and special events for the residents, families, staff and others. The kick-off day for NNHW is Mother’s Day!

Team Care itself is meant to personify the many professionals and caregivers whose dedication and work ethic contributes to achieving care excellence and high levels of satisfaction. Families and the public may not realize the breadth of expertise Team Care brings to the bedside and throughout a resident’s day. Our “customers” may also not realize that they too can be active members of Team Care; to fully initialize a person-centered protocol their input is important.

Team Care should be on display at your facility by using special themed products that are available from the [AHCA Bookstore](#). Order soon as quantities are limited. More information is available at the dedicated web site www.nnhw.org and on [Facebook](#).

Let’s show the world class spirit of care communities across the nation this NNHW by reaching out to all friends of quality health care. We are all more effective with Team Care spirit humming along at full throttle as Everyone Pitches In!

Governor Proclaims National Nursing Home Week in Alabama

Governor Robert Bentley has officially proclaimed May 12-18 as National Nursing Home Week in Alabama. *A copy of Gov. Bentley’s proclamation is attached.*

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.

OTHER NEWS

Important Medical Device Correction: FreeStyle InsuLinx Blood Glucose Meters

Abbott has initiated a voluntary recall of FreeStyle InsuLinx Blood Glucose Meters in the United States.

This does not affect any other FreeStyle or Precision products. For more information, please see the notice at <https://www.abbottdiabetescare.com/press-room/2013/2013-c.html>.

For information on this product notification for countries outside the United States, please visit www.FreeStyleInsuLinx.com/swupdate

Membership Assistance Requested

The American Health Care Association (AHCA) is conducting a nationwide nursing facility staffing survey, which will collect 2012 staffing data that will be used to estimate vacancy, retention and turnover rates of nursing facility employees. **Please take the time to complete and return the survey to AHCA by April 24, 2013.**

The goal of this survey is to provide statistics on retention and turnover for benchmarking and advocacy purposes at the national and state levels, and through LTC Trend Tracker - AHCA's free member-only quality and performance improvement tool, can be made available to participating facilities for internal tracking and benchmarking purposes. Please note that individual peer information will not be disclosed to any party, but is made available in aggregate form for benchmarking purposes. For more information, check out LTC Trend Tracker or the latest staffing report on the AHCA website.

Nursing facilities can participate in AHCA's Nursing Facility Staffing Survey (2012) in one of two ways:

1. *Individual facilities* may download the survey ([PDF](#) format, 120 KB, [Excel](#) format 56 KB) from http://www.ahcancal.org/research_data/staffing/Pages/default.aspx, then complete and return the survey to AHCA 2012 Nursing Facility Vacancy Survey, American Health Care Association, 1201 L Street, NW, Washington, DC, 20005, scan and email the survey to research@ahca.org, or fax the completed survey to 202-454-1299.
2. *Multi-facility organizations* may download the survey ([Excel](#) format, 180 KB) from http://www.ahcancal.org/research_data/staffing/Pages/default.aspx, and email the completed survey to AHCA at research@ahca.org.

Please email research@ahca.org with any question, or call Jeffrey Liu at (202) 898-2818 or Lisa Matthews-Martin at (202) 898-2824. Thank you in advance for your assistance and your support.

AHCA Announces Advocacy Day May 16, 2013

Ever wish there were a day dedicated to sending out invitations to your Member of Congress for a facility tour? A day just to tell your friends and family to sign up to join our advocacy network? During National Nursing Home Week, Thursday, May 16, 2013, will be Advocacy Day. Everyone is strongly encouraged to organize an activity to bring awareness to protecting and advocating for our profession.

Simple ideas include:

- Setting up a table in the lobby of facilities to recruit new advocates or installing an advocacy board in the break room.
- Visiting your statehouse and meet with legislators or introduce yourself to staffers at your Congressional representative's district offices.
- Requesting a FREE Advocacy Center in a box for your facility from Clark Princell or feature yours prominently with balloons.
- Taking time to talk about what's happening in Washington and registering for Congressional Briefing in Washington, DC June 3-4.
- Emailing AHCA's advocacy network sign up link to friends, family and co-workers or make sure at least five new people fill out the advocacy post cards from your Advocacy Center boxes and return them to AHCA.
- Contacting your members of Congress regarding observation stays legislation.

Come up with creative ideas to showcase advocacy in your facility. We'll feature pictures and stories from Advocacy Day at [facebook.com/saveseniors](https://www.facebook.com/saveseniors) so start planning today. Contact mcowden@ahca.org for questions or requests for help.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<u><i>Date</i></u>	<u><i>Event</i></u>	<u><i>Location</i></u>	<u><i>Time</i></u>
April 25	ANHA Region III Meeting RSVP: Kevin Ball (205) 788-6330 kball@ballhealth.com Guest Speaker from Alabama Medicaid Agency	Kirkwood by the River Birmingham	12:00 p.m.
April 26	ANHA Region VII Meeting RSVP: Gail McInnish (251) 937-3501, gail.mcinnish@infirmaryhealth.org Guest Speaker: ANHA's Katrina Magdon	Felix's Fish Camp Mobile	12:00 p.m.
April 29- May 2	ANHA Mid-Year Convention	Perdido Beach Resort Orange Beach	
April 29 May 2	ANHA Executive Board Meeting	Perdido Beach Resort Orange Beach	8:30 a.m.
April 29	Convention/Education Committees Meeting	Perdido Beach Resort Orange Beach	1:00 p.m.
April 30	ARRTC Road Show Disaster Training	Perdido Beach Resort Orange Beach	1:15 pm

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

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>