



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, May 17, 2013

ANHA NEWS

Ms. Alabama Nursing Home Pageant Entry Deadline is May 31

The deadline to submit entries for the 2013 Ms. Alabama Nursing Home Pageant is May 31. If you have questions or need an official entry form, please contact John Matson at (334) 271-6214 or jmatson@anha.org.

“Fall Prevention, Using Root Cause Analysis to Eliminate Alarms and Restraints” Educational Seminar June 25 – Sponsored by Robinson-Adams Insurance/Alliance for Long Term Care Quality Improvement

Join ANHA as we present a full-day seminar for long-term care providers on fall prevention, using a root cause analysis approach. Participants will be introduced to The Empira Fall Prevention Program which is a combination of nationally- recognized evidence-based, fall prevention practices and practical applications from the most recent research findings. Empira’s program advocates for a restraint-free, alarm-free, correct bed heights and no-floor mats environment, indicating many common past best practices are no longer considered a best practice. This in-depth seminar will cover the implementation of a comprehensive fall prevention and reduction program. The seminar will be held on June 25 at the Wynfrey Hotel located in Birmingham, Alabama from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm. This program has been approved for 6 hours of continuing education credits by the Alabama Board of Examiners for Nursing Home and the Alabama Board of Social Work Examiners. It has also been approved for 7.2 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 details.*

“Stop Workplace Drama” Educational Seminar June 26 – Sponsored by Healthcare Services Group

Whether it’s the backstabbing, power struggles, dealing with the queen bee, or the “untouchable” employee, or even just navigating through change, drama manifests itself in many ways especially in high emotional environments such as healthcare facilities, long term care operations and nursing homes. You KNOW it goes on in your practice – gossip, poor coordination of the team, disruptive or disruptive employee behavior – and you KNOW it is a huge distraction away from good patient care, efficiencies and business objectives. In this highly participative program, attendees have opportunities to ask questions, share wisdom and get the tools needed to identify and workplace drama.

Our speaker has provided the following videos lessons from her You Tube Channel. This series is called “Stepping into a New Truth.”

- Lesson 1: <http://youtu.be/kvNLra-936k>
- Lesson 2: <http://youtu.be/7swPOgmAClg>
- Lesson 3: <http://youtu.be/R4SFiqGv2ns>

The seminar will be held on June 26 at the Wynfrey Hotel located in Birmingham, Alabama from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. This program has been approved for 4.5 hours of continuing education credits by the Alabama Board of Examiners for Nursing Home and the Alabama Board of Social Work Examiners. It has also been approved for 5.4 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 details.*

2013 ANHA Owners’ Meeting & Educational Symposium – August 8 - 10

Sponsored by:

American Medical Technologies
Associated LTC Insurance Company
Felder Services
Gericare Medical Supply
Healthcare Services Group, Inc.

AJG/Robinson-Adams Insurance
Senior Care Pharmacy
Sherlock, Smith & Adams
Starnes Davis Florie, LLP

Join ANHA for the 2013 Owners’ Meeting and Educational Symposium. The event will be held August 8-10 at the Inn on Biltmore Estate in Asheville, North Carolina. The annual owners’ meeting and breakfast will be held on August 10.

Overnight group rates have been negotiated with the hotel for this meeting at a rate of **\$249** per night. To make overnight reservations, please contact the hotel at 866-779-6277 and identify yourself as being part of the Alabama Nursing Home Association. **The Inn on Biltmore Estate must receive your reservations by June 22, 2013 in order to receive the special group rate.**

This entire event has been approved for a total of four (4) hours of continuing education credit for nursing home administrators. *Look for more information to come in the near future.*

Kevin Ball Selected AHCA Future Leader

Congratulations to Arlington Rehabilitation & Healthcare Center Administrator Kevin Ball on being appointed a member of the American Health Care Association’s (AHCA) 2013-2014 Future Leader Class. AHCA will host the 10th annual “Future Leaders of Long Term Care in America” symposium July 24-26 in Washington, D.C. Mr. Ball serves as Region III Director on the ANHA Executive Board.

NATIONAL NEWS

New Medical Manual Review (MMR) Q and A

The American Health Care Association (AHCA) is continuing its efforts to have the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) clarify its guidance on MMR -- which CMS is

issuing piece by piece. AHCA's therapy work group reviewed the documents, and provided CMS with further questions which were recently answered. *The document is attached.*

FAQs on CMS Therapy Caps and Advance Beneficiary (ABN) Notice of Coverage - Law on ABNs Re Therapy has Changed

The law addressing ABNs with respect to therapy services provided on or after January 3, 2013 was changed by American Tax Payer Relief Act. The CMS FAQ is attached.

Modification to MDS 3.0 Inactivation/Modification Policy

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services has released modifications

(http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-Fee-for-Service-Payment/SNFPPS/Downloads/Inact_ModChange_final_public.pdf) to MDS 3.0

Inactivation/Modification policy. The changes clarify the differences between modification and inactivation and when and at what data sets each can be used. The modifications will address how to handle typographical errors. The changes will be made to the MDS 3.0 RAI Manual, Chapter 5 – Submissions and Correction of the MDS Assessments.

Proposed Fiscal Year 2014 Payment and Policy Changes for Medicare Skilled Nursing Facilities

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) recently issued a proposed rule [CMS-1446-P] outlining proposed Fiscal Year 2014 Medicare payment rates for skilled nursing facilities (SNFs). Below is a short summary of the key provisions in the SNF PPS proposed rule that could have a direct impact on the long term and post-acute care profession.

Market Basket Update

- The proposed rule provides for a market basket increase for SNFs of 1.4% beginning October 1, 2013. The 1.4% market basket update reflects a full market basket increase of 2.3%, less a 0.4% multifactor productivity adjustment required by Section 3401(b) of the Affordable Care Act, and a 0.5% adjustment to correct for an error in forecasting the market basket in FY 2012.
- CMS estimates that the net market basket update would increase SNF payments by approximately \$500 million in FY 2014.

Other Key Provisions

- CMS proposes to rebase and revise the market basket update methodology to use more current Medicare cost reports information. The rebasing will update the market basket cost weights to reflect 2010 relative costs rather than the current 2004-based market basket cost weights, and revise some of the price proxies.
- CMS is proposing to add an item to the MDS to record the number of distinct calendar days of therapy provided by all rehabilitation disciplines to a beneficiary over the seven day look-back period. Furthermore, CMS is clarifying that the qualifying condition for the Rehab Medium RUG categories require 5 distinct calendar days of therapy and that the Rehab Low RUG categories require 3 distinct calendar days of therapy.
- CMS contracted with Acumen, LLC and the Brookings Institution to identify potential alternatives to the existing methodology used to pay for therapy services received under the SNF PPS. CMS is requesting comments on options for improving or replacing the therapy component of the SNF PPS.

The proposed rule went on display at the *Federal Register's* Public Inspection Desk and will be available under "Special Filings," at <http://www.federalregister.gov/inspection.aspx>. Public comments on the proposals will be accepted until July 1.

For further information about the SNF PPS, please visit <http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-Fee-for-Service-Payment/SNFPSP/index.html>.

AHCA offer Medical Manual Review Clearinghouse

The American Health Care Association (AHCA) has opened a Medical Manual Review Clearinghouse website. You can visit the site at http://www.ahcancal.org/facility_operations/medicare/Pages/MMR.aspx. AHCA encourages facility and corporate staff to send therapy questions related to claims processing to the ManualReview@AHCA.org.

STATE NEWS

Medicaid Update – EXPEDITE To Go Live June 10

Members of the Alabama Nursing Home Association have been meeting regularly with Medicaid since last fall on ideas and ways in which we can improve the current Medicaid Nursing Home Eligibility process. As a result of our joint efforts, we will soon have an online web portal (EXPEDITE) for nursing facilities and residents/sponsors to use in order to complete the Medicaid application online and submit it electronically. The option to submit the application hard copy is still an option. This new process is scheduled to "go live" on June 10.

In preparation for this new process, Medicaid will conduct webinar training. Enclosed you will find a registration form for you to sign up for a training session. Medicaid will have one AT&T (webinar) line per facility, so you will need to provide the name and email of the individual in each facility that will be responsible for connecting to the webinar. Since Medicaid will be limited to only one line per facility, it is suggested that the callers call from one line and gather in a conference room or other large room. **Webinar times will be scheduled on a first come first serve basis!** ANHA will collect the webinar information and forward the information to Medicaid. We encourage you to sign up TODAY! *Please see the attached registration form for details.*

Medicaid to Provide PERM Provider Education Sessions

The purpose of PERM Provider Education Webinars/Conference Calls is to provide opportunities for the providers of the Medicaid and CHIP communities to enhance their understanding of specific provider responsibilities during PERM. The Payment Error Rate Measurement Program (PERM) is a federal program which audits payment and eligibility accuracy by identifying payments that may have been paid incorrectly. **PERM audits all paid claims.**

The composite Medicaid rate is based on a weighted average reflecting fee-for-service and managed care claim payments. It also includes an eligibility component that measures improper payments for services furnished to recipients who were not eligible for Medicaid or who were eligible for Medicaid, but not for the services they received.

The federal PERM program uses a 17-state, three-year rotation for measuring improper payments in Medicaid, so CMS measures each state once every three years. Alabama's 2011 rate was based on a sample of approximately 540 fee-for-service and 280 managed care claim records from the 2010 Fiscal Year selected by the federal government to review. Alabama was in a group of 17 states that were surveyed in Fiscal Year 2010 by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services in conjunction with the Payment Error Rate Measurement (PERM) program. The federal PERM program uses a 17-state, three-year rotation for measuring improper payments in Medicaid, so CMS measures each state once every three years.

The most recent report, released in late 2011, noted that Alabama's Medicaid Error Rate was 2.4 percent, significantly below the national error rate of 6.7 percent. The Agency's previous rate of 3.68 percent in 2007 was also substantially below the national average of 10.6 percent.

PERM is coordinated by the Agency's Program Integrity Division. The division is responsible for directing Agency efforts to identify, prevent and prosecute fraud, abuse and/or misuse in the Medicaid program. This includes verifying that medical services are appropriate and rendered as billed, that services are provided by qualified providers to eligible recipients, that payments for those services are correct and that all funds identified for collection are pursued.

"Improper payment rates include those payments that may have been paid incorrectly and do not necessarily reflect fraud," said Jacqueline Thomas, director of the Agency's Program Integrity Division, noting that the vast majority of errors are due to inadequate documentation. Any payments made in error have been recouped from providers.

The webinars/conference calls will cover the PERM process and provider responsibilities during a PERM review, frequent mistakes and best practices for documentation submission, and an overview of the Electronic Submission of Medical Documentation (ESMD) program

Dates, times and other information for the sessions that will be hosted by CMS are listed below.

- Tuesday, **May 21, 2013**, 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. **Central Time**
To Join Meeting:
Audio: 1-877-267-1577; Meeting ID# 4964
Webinar: <https://webinar.cms.hhs.gov/permcycle2web1/>
- Wednesday, **June 5, 2013**, 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. **Central Time**
To Join Meeting:
Audio: 1-877-267-1577; Meeting ID# 4964
Webinar: <https://webinar.cms.hhs.gov/permcycle2web2/>
- Tuesday, **June 18, 2013**, 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. **Central Time**
To Join Meeting:
Audio: 1-877-267-1577; Meeting ID# 4964
Webinar: <https://webinar.cms.hhs.gov/permcycle2web3/>
- Tuesday, **July 2, 2013**, 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. **Central Time**
To Join Meeting:
Audio: 1-877-267-1577; Meeting ID# 4964
Webinar: <https://webinar.cms.hhs.gov/permcycle2web4/>

There will be time available for Q&As at the end of the presentations. However, CMS encourages all participants to submit questions in advance to the designated PERM Provider email address at PERMProviders@cms.hhs.gov.

Presentation materials and participant call-in information will be posted on the Provider Education Calls link at: [http://www.cms.gov/Research-Statistics-Data-and-Systems/Monitoring-Programs/PERM/Provider Education Calls.html](http://www.cms.gov/Research-Statistics-Data-and-Systems/Monitoring-Programs/PERM/Provider_Education_Calls.html)

The webinars are being presented on a Connect Pro platform. To test your connection in advance, launch: https://webinar.cms.hhs.gov/common/help/en/support/meeting_test.htm
Questions, please contact Patricia Jones at Medicaid at: (334) 242-5609 or Patricia.Jones@medicaid.alabama.gov.

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>
Alexandria Frazier	5/8/13

FACILITY NEWS

Generations of Red Bay Earns Deficiency Free Survey!



Generations of Red Bay recently earned its third deficiency free health survey in four years! The Administrator is Darlene Miller and the Director of Nursing is Pamela Pierce. The facility is located in Red Bay and is owned by Generations Management Company. Congratulations to the staff of Generations of Red Bay on this outstanding accomplishment!

OTHER NEWS

AHCA/NCAL Launches New ACA Employer Penalty Calculator



Beginning in 2014, the Affordable Care Act (ACA) requires employers with 50 or more full-time employee equivalents either to offer health insurance coverage to their full-time employees or face potential financial penalties.

To help members in planning their employee health coverage, the American Health Care Association (AHCA) has developed a calculator designed to provide a rough estimate of potential ACA penalties based on a company's size. The calculator is located on AHCA's Affordable Care Act website at

http://www.ahcancal.org/facility_operations/affordablecareact/Pages/default.aspx . Look for the calculator icon on the left hand side of the page. Estimating potential penalties is just one of many elements in developing a strategy to respond to the new requirements. In making health coverage decisions, employers should consult with experts including, but not limited to, their attorneys, accountants, and benefits advisors.

AHCA Launches Quality Initiative Recognition Program

All over the country, skilled nursing centers are reaching the goals of the American Health Care Association (AHCA) Quality Initiative and improving the lives of the residents you serve. It's time to celebrate your success! AHCA is proud to announce the Quality Initiative Recognition Program to honor those nursing centers which achieved one, two, three, or all four goals over the past year.

The program is a tiered-approach: the more goals you achieve, the more recognition you receive. All providers which achieve at least one goal will be honored at AHCA's 2014 Quality Symposium.

Those that succeed in reaching all four goals will receive special recognition at the conference, a feature in providermagazine.com and will be included in a national release from AHCA!

AHCA members do not need to submit hospital readmission nor antipsychotic data – AHCA already has access to that information. AHCA does need your staff turnover data, as well as your customer satisfaction results for 2012, in order to be considered for those two goals. You can find all the necessary submission forms and directions on the [Quality Initiative Recognition Program webpage](#).

The deadline for all submissions is Monday, July 15, 2013. And as always, take the initiative at QualityInitiative.ahcancal.org.

Alabama's Best Practices Program

A total of **20** best practices have been submitted from facilities across the state. Those selected to present at Alabama's Best Practices will be announced in the coming weeks. Mark your calendars for August 29, 2013, for the Alabama's Best Practices Program at the Cahaba Grand Conference Center in Birmingham. Thank you for your interest in and support of the program!

Congratulations to the following facilities for their nominations for the 2013 Program:

Cullman Long Term Care & Rehab	Crowne Health Care of Montgomery
Hanceville Nursing and Rehab Center	Golden Living – Trussville
Coosa Valley Nursing Home	Oak Park Nursing Home
Wiregrass Rehab Center & Nursing Home	Arbor Springs Health & Rehab Center
Bill Nichols State Veterans Home	Oak Trace Care & Rehabilitation Center
Prattville Health & Rehab	Cullman Health Care & Rehab Center
Athens Rehabilitation Center & Senior Care	Dadeville Health Care Center
River City Care and Rehabilitation Center (2)	Haleyville Health and Rehab

ARRTC Disaster Training Specifically for Nursing Homes

The National Center for Disaster Medical Response at the University of South Alabama Center for Strategic Health Innovation is hosting a *nursing home specific* Advanced Regional Response Training Center Program (ARRTC). This training session is only open to nursing homes.

ARRTC for nursing homes is a comprehensive approach to all-hazards disaster preparedness and response training. The curriculum has been designed to teach responders and leaders how to effectively respond and collaborate.

The course is designed for individuals charged with disaster preparedness, response and leadership responsibilities and will provide basic core knowledge of their roles and responsibilities during an emergency or disaster. This training will also provide leaders and responders valuable information on how to perform their jobs, make the best decisions, how to communicate needs and offers of assistance, along with the roles and responsibilities of them and their partners during disaster response.

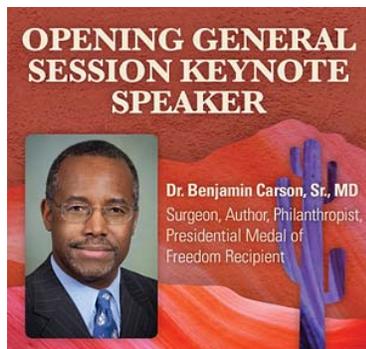
A variety of critical and timely issues will be covered, including Incident Command, National Incident Management System and Surge Capacity issues. *Please see the attached brochure for more information.*

AHCA Quality Improvement Toolkits/Webinars

The 4 Key Strategies to Retain New Hires and Reduce Employee Turnover (toolkit and webinar) and the *Clinical Considerations of Antipsychotic Management* (Toolkit and webinar) are available (free) to all AHCA members at: <http://qualityinitiative.ahcancal.org>. This resource uses a process framework, based on the Nursing Process, to identify care objectives and expectations. It identifies tools and resources to help providers successfully manage antipsychotic medication use at the resident and facility level. The guide focuses on 7 critical steps needed to ensure quality outcomes that are successful and continuous.

Members will need to log-in to access the toolkits, as it is a member-only benefit. If log-in information is needed, please contact your facility Administrator or State Association and they can give you the information you need.

Dr. Benjamin Carson, Sr. to Address AHCA Annual Convention



Renowned neurosurgeon Dr. Benjamin Carson, Sr. is the opening keynote speaker for the ANHA Annual Convention.

Born into poverty and raised by a single parent, it appeared all of the cards were stacked against Benjamin Carson when he started his life's journey. Today, Dr. Carson is a full professor of neurosurgery, oncology, plastic surgery and pediatrics at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, where he has also directed pediatric neurosurgery for over 25 years.

Named by CNN and TIME Magazine as one of the 20 foremost physicians in the world, he was also named one of the Library of Congress' "Living Legends," and was the subject of an award-winning movie entitled *Gifted Hands: The Ben Carson Story*, which premiered on TNT and is based on his memoir. Author of five books and father of three sons, Dr. Carson has a motivating and uplifting story that will truly inspire you. Don't miss this opening event — it's just a part of the inspiration that awaits you in Phoenix! [Register today!](#) Get the lowest registration rate when you register before the early bird deadline of July 19. The convention will be held October 6-9 in Phoenix, AZ.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Time</u>
May 22	ANHA Region IX Act/SS Auxiliary Meeting RSVP: Debra Dixon (205) 932-1173 Speaker: Kim Johnson, Ombudsman CEUs and refreshments provided	Fayette Medical Center LTC Fayette	1:00 p.m.
June 5	ANHA Region IX Meeting RSVP: Irma Taylor (205) 343-7104, Irma.Taylor@northporthealth.com Speaker: Parker Ariail, Healthcare Services Group	Cypress Inn Tuscaloosa	12:00 p.m.
June 25	Seminar: Fall Prevention, Using Root Cause Analysis to Eliminate Alarms and Restraints	The Wynfrey Hotel Birmingham	8:30 a.m.
June 26	Seminar: Stop Workplace Drama	The Wynfrey Hotel Birmingham	9:00 a.m.

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>