



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, June 28, 2013

ANHA NEWS

ANHA Office Schedule

The ANHA Office will be closed Thursday, July 4 and Friday, July 5 in observance of Independence Day. The office will re-open at 8:00 a.m. on Monday, July 8.

ANHA Announces Historic Partnership for Inaugural Senior State Games *Nursing Home Residents and Senior Citizens to Compete in Olympic Style Games*



Nursing home residents and senior center attendees from across the state will have an opportunity to compete in Olympic style games in 2014. The Alabama Nursing Home Association Senior State Games is a program of the Alabama Department of Senior Services and the ASF Foundation. The competitors will participate in age specific events that are conducted in a similar fashion to the Olympics.

The ANHA Senior State Games will coincide with the ASF Foundation State Games XXXII. The date and location for the games will be announced later this year. A special committee representing nursing homes, senior centers and the ASF Foundation will plan events that are in line with the age and ability levels of nursing home residents and senior center attendees.

More details about this exciting partnership will be announced in the coming months.

Additional Info from “Fall Prevention, Using Root Cause Analysis to Eliminate Alarms and Restraints” Seminar

ANHA has received some additional hand outs and information for the educational seminar conducted on June 25. Please visit the member’s section of www.anha.org for the materials.

“2013 Summer Regulatory Update” Educational Seminar July 30

Join ANHA as we present a full-day seminar for long-term care providers on providing a regulatory update on the following issues: Hospice Care; OSHA and Whistleblower

Regulations; Medicaid Issues; and Financial Plans Needed for ACA. The seminar will be held on July 30 at the Wynfrey Hotel located in Birmingham, Alabama from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. 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.*

Registration Open: 2013 ANHA Owners' Meeting & Educational Symposium August 8-10 – Educational Seminars Announced

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.

This entire event has been approved for a total of four (4) hours of continuing education credit for nursing home administrators. *Please see the attached flyer for more details.*

The Wynfrey Hotel Completes Renovation – Changes Name

The Wynfrey Hotel, long-time host of ANHA events, recently completed a \$20 million renovation. The hotel will now be known as Hyatt Regency Birmingham – The Wynfrey Hotel. The hotel's main number has changed to (205) 705-1234. Also, another Hyatt Regency is located in Birmingham, England. Be sure the reservations agent understands that you want to reserve a room at the Hyatt Regency in Birmingham, Alabama. Please make a note of these changes. We think you will be pleased with the renewed guest rooms and public spaces.

NATIONAL NEWS

Effective July 1, CMS Requires MAOs to Submit HIPPS Codes on SNF Claims

Effective July 1, 2013, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) is requiring Medicare Advantage Organizations (MAOs) to submit Health Insurance Prospective Payment System (HIPPS) codes for all skilled nursing facility (SNF) patients. HIPPS codes, currently used to code patients into the correct Resource Utilization Group (RUG) category for Original Medicare fee-for-service patients, involve case-mix groups that represent specific patient characteristics used to determine payment. Until now, MAOs were not required to report this

information to CMS, and although CMS began communicating this new requirement to MAOs back in Fall 2012, they have not provided any direct communication to the provider community. Some plans have proactively reached out to their providers to notify them of this requirement and instruct them on how to prepare for it, but many have not. With the deadline fast approaching, it may leave many providers frantically wondering what they should be doing to prepare.

We understand that this requirement may require changes to both technology and processes. For example, many provider-plan contracts do not base payment on RUGs rates, and therefore a traditional assessment to generate HIPPS codes for those patients may not be required. Will this new requirement necessitate performing assessments on these patients, thereby increasing workload? There are many questions like these that remain unanswered, but there is one important fact that we do know: **CMS has assured us that although this requirement goes into effect on July 1st, they will not immediately be rejecting claims from MAOs that do not meet this requirement.** CMS went on to explain that they will be working closely with MAOs over the next several weeks to address their concerns about complying with this new requirement.

In the meantime, providers should be communicating directly with their MAO partners to seek guidance about what, if anything, they should be doing to prepare for this coming change.

AHCA Reacts to MedPAC Report on Therapy Services and Bundled Payment Initiatives

Following the release of the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission's (MedPAC) June 2013 Report (http://www.medpac.gov/documents/Jun13_EntireReport.pdf) to the Congress: Medicare and the Health Care Delivery System, which includes chapters on Medicare payment for outpatient therapy services and bundling post-acute care services, Mark Parkinson, the President and CEO of the American Health Care Association (AHCA) issued the following statement:

“AHCA welcomes a thoughtful dialogue on how outpatient therapy services covered under Medicare Part B can become more efficient, as long as decisions do not jeopardize seniors' access to these services. While AHCA appreciates many of MedPAC's recommendations, the commission continues to underestimate the value of Part B therapy services for our nation's seniors.

“Skilled nursing care centers provide critical therapies that maintain or rehabilitate the medically frail, elderly and individuals with disabilities. Currently, there is no global standard to measure the value of this therapy. But we all know that patients, their families and their doctors want what is best for the individual, not what's on a government budget line. Without consistent guidelines which produce data demonstrating the improved outcomes therapy services provide, current suggested policy changes are short-sighted and only threaten seniors' ability to reach their highest potential. We encourage MedPAC to reconsider its recommendations which would cap access to the care seniors and their providers believe is medically necessary.

“Additionally, MedPAC raised the prospect of a bundled payment system, and AHCA is encouraged by this ongoing discussion of person-centered care. The post-acute care profession is eager to see the results of the bundled payment demo currently underway within the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (CMMI), of which a few AHCA skilled nursing members are

taking part. Before implementing full-fledged reform into this still unknown proposal, AHCA encourages caution and careful examination of the CMMI demo, to ensure seniors will continue to receive the care they need.”

STATE NEWS

Update: Medicaid EXPEDITE to Go Live July 1

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. Submitting a hard copy of the application is still an option.

A copy of the Session #3 Expedite Nursing Home Training delivered Tuesday, June 4, 2013, is now available on the public Alabama Medicaid site at this address:

http://www.medicaid.alabama.gov/documents/3.0_Apply/3.5_Expedite/3.5_EXPEDITE_Web_Portal_6-13-13.wmv

ANHA encourages you to visit the Medicaid website for more information. The website is www.medicaid.alabama.gov, click “Apply for Medicaid”, then “Expedite Application”, then Expedite. **The links will be up and running by July 1.**

Nursing Home Providers Tips for an Efficient Medical Review

- Please accurately complete the Admission and Evaluation Data (Form 161) in its entirety. This includes documenting the **name, Medicaid number and Date on pages 2 and 3 of the form**. If the recipient is a spend down, please check spend down on the form and give the dates of the spend down status.
- Please ensure that the Medicaid date is documented correctly on the Form 161. When the physician signs the form he/she is stating that “I certify this resident requires nursing facility care effective on the admission date appearing on this form”.
- The facility is not required to send the entire medical record, only information that supports the request for LTC.
- Initial audit requests and requests for additional information **must** be submitted timely to avoid any penalties as referenced in the Administrative Code **Rule number Rule no. 560-X-10-. 07. Review of Medicaid Residents.**
- If unstable medical condition is the qualifying criterion (criterion G), the medical record must contain information to support the condition and the active treatment rendered within 60 days prior to admission.
- PRN Oxygen is not covered; must submit MAR showing regular usage.
- Multiple criteria under K will count as one criterion.
- When criteria K is checked on Form 161, please submit at least 1 week of nurse’s notes or ADLS flow sheets, approximately 1 week prior to the Medicaid admission date if transferring from Medicare to Medicaid. This information can also be documented on Form 161 under the section of Diagnosis and Pertinent Medical Information.
- Submit the full MDS prior to and closest to the Medicaid admission date.

- Cannot mark A and K7, MUST BE ONE OR THE OTHER.
- Cannot mark G and K9, MUST BE ONE OR THE OTHER.
- If the recipient is out in the community greater than 30 days, then the recipient will be a new admission and must meet at least two criteria.
- Transfer from out of state will require two criteria – Cannot use preadmission screening information from another state.

Medicaid Recovery Audit Contractor Audits – Second Round Coming

ANHA was notified by the Alabama Medicaid Agency that the next round of facilities scheduled for a financial Recovery Audit Contractor (RAC) will be coming soon. Facilities in this category will be notified by a certified letter from Health Management Systems (HMS) – Medicaid’s financial RAC Contractor – requesting records related to Medicaid beneficiaries. It is anticipated that HMS will mail the letters on or about July 8. These audits are mandated by federal law.

ANHA is working with Medicaid and HMS to provide a webinar for facilities involved in his round of financial RAC audits. The webinar will be similar to the one held in January for facilities that were in the first RAC audit. Over the next few years all facilities will have a financial RAC audit. ANHA has no way of knowing when your facility will be scheduled. We encourage you to contact your financial and legal consultants to assist in preparation of this audit when you are notified. *A handout from HMS is enclosed.*

Graduate Scholarships

The Alabama legislature appropriated \$166,027 for graduate scholarships administered by the Board of Nursing. The application and instructions are posted on their website, www.abn.alabama.gov, under Nursing Programs and then Graduate Scholarships. The deadline for application is July 31, 2013.

Medicaid to Provide PERM Provider Education Sessions

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has hosted one and will host four additional Payment Error Rate Measurement (PERM) provider education webinar/conference calls during Cycle 2 (2013). The purpose is to provide opportunities for the providers of the Medicaid and Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) communities to enhance your understanding of specific Provider responsibilities during PERM.

The PERM program is designed to measure improper payments in the Medicaid and CHIP programs, as required by the Improper Payments Information Act (IPIA) of 2002 (amended in 2010 by the Improper Payments Elimination and Recovery Improvement Act or IPERA, and the Improper Payments Elimination and Recovery Improvement Act of 2012 IPERIA). Webinar/Conference call participants will learn from presentations that feature;

- The PERM process and provider responsibilities during a PERM review
- Frequent mistakes and best practices
- The Electronic Submission of Medical Documentation, esMD program

The presentations will be repeated for each session. You will have the opportunity to ask questions live through the conference lines, via the webinar, and through 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.

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 Cycle2Invitation Rev052313.

Tuesday, July 2 – 2:00-3:00 p.m.

To join the meeting:

Audio: 1-877-267-1577, Meeting ID# 4964 Webinar: <https://webinar.cms.hhs.gov/permcycle2web4/>

****New Session** Wednesday, July 17 – 2:00-3:00 p.m.**

To join the meeting: Audio: 1-877-267-1577,

Meeting ID# 4964, Webinar: <https://webinar.cms.hhs.gov/permcycle2web5/>

CMS encourages all participants to submit questions not addressed in the session to our designated PERM Provider email address at; PERMProviders@cms.hhs.gov. Please check the CMS Website and PERM Provider's page regularly for helpful education materials, FAQs, and updates at <http://www.cms.gov/PERM/>. 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.

OTHER NEWS

CMS Announces National Provider Call: CMS National Partnership to Improve Dementia Care in Nursing Homes – Register Now

Wednesday, July 10, 12:30 p.m.-2:00 p.m

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has developed a national partnership to improve the quality of care provided to individuals with dementia living in nursing homes. This partnership is focused on delivering health care that is person-centered, comprehensive, and interdisciplinary. By improving dementia care through the use of individualized, person-centered care approaches, CMS hopes to continue to reduce the use of unnecessary antipsychotic medications in nursing homes and eventually other care settings as well. The partnership promotes a systematic process to evaluate each person and identify approaches that are most likely to benefit that individual. While antipsychotic medications are the initial focus of the partnership, CMS recognizes that attention to other potentially harmful medications is also an important part of this initiative.

During this National Provider Call, CMS subject matter experts will discuss the progress that has been made during the implementation of this national partnership, its successes, and next steps. Additional speakers will share some personal success stories from the field. A question and answer session will follow the presentation.

Agenda:

- National partnership overview: Success through data
- Stories from the field: State coalitions, providers, clinicians
- Next Steps
 - Provider feedback
 - What outreach strategies have been successfully implemented and have led to meaningful change in nursing homes?
- Question and answer session

Target Audience: Consumer and advocacy groups, nursing home providers, surveyor community, prescribers, professional associations, and other interested stakeholders

Registration Information: In order to receive call-in information, you must register for the call on the CMS Upcoming National Provider Calls registration website (<http://www.eventsvc.com/blhtechnologies>). Registration will close at 12:00 p.m. the day of the call or when available space has been filled; no exceptions will be made, so please register early.

Presentation: The presentation for this call will be posted on the FFS National Provider Calls web page (<http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Outreach/NPC/National-Provider-Calls-and-Events.html>). In addition, a link to the slide presentation will be emailed to all registrants on the day of the call.

Upcoming AHCA Webinars

Webinar: Implementing the Affordable Care Act: Countdown to Employer Requirements: What to know about being in compliance

Date & Time: Tuesday, July 16, 2013, 1:00 p.m.–2:00 p.m.

Speakers: Nancy Taylor, Attorney, Greenberg Traurig

Registration Link: <http://webinars.ahcancal.org/session.php?id=11154>

Session Description: Beginning in 2014 employers with 50 or more full-time or “full-time equivalent” employees during the previous calendar year must offer minimum essential health care coverage or pay a penalty.

Learning Objectives:

- Use our ACA Readiness Checklist
- Understand triggers for whistleblower action.
- Understand audit triggers and risks.

Webinar: A Model for Collaboration between Hospitals and Assisted Living Communities

Date & Time: Wednesday, July 17, 2013, 1:00 p.m.–2:00 p.m.

Speakers: Erik Johnson, Senior Vice President, Avalere Health

Registration Link: <http://webinars.ahcancal.org/session.php?id=11182>

Session Description: The webinar will examine emerging models in which hospitals and assisted living facilities collaborate to manage the continuum of care for ALF residents more effectively, with the objective of reducing unnecessary ER visits and hospital admissions. The program will examine the populations that represent the most risk for health systems attempting to develop effective population health strategies for the Medicare population. Developing tailored joint programs with ALFs is a valuable element of such an approach when carefully constructed.

Learning Objectives:

- Understanding the risks that the ALF population presents to ACOs and risk-bearing provider networks.
- Identifying emergent best practices in coordinating care between health systems and ALFs.
- Identifying emergent communication protocols that streamline and improve care transitions.

Webinar: Implementing the Affordable Care Act: Countdown for Understanding Employer Requirements

Date & Time: Tuesday, August 6, 2013, 1:00 p.m.–2:00 p.m.

Speakers: Nancy Taylor, Attorney, Greenberg Traurig

Registration Link: <http://webinars.ahcancal.org/session.php?id=11155>

Session Description: Beginning in 2014 employers with 50 or more full-time or “full-time equivalent” employees during the previous calendar year must offer minimum essential health care coverage or pay a penalty. However, simply offering coverage to employees may not be enough to comply with the law.

Learning Objectives:

- What kind of coverage do you need to offer to you employees?
- Does your plan measure up to the minimum value requirements?
- Is your health care plan affordable, according to the ACA employer–mandated definition? What types of plans can continue into 2014?
- What can a self-insured group do with wellness incentives?

AQAF Posts New Videos

The Alabama Quality Assurance Foundation (AQAF) has posted new recordings to its website:

- May 7: Hospitalization Tracking Tool (recording/video)
- May 23: Medication Tracking Tool (recording/video)

If you were unable to attend the calls, you should find the information helpful and informative. If you were able to attend the calls, this might be a nice review and/or information to share with other members of your team.

Please follow the directions below to access the video recordings.

- Go to www.aqaf.com
- Click “About Us”
- Click “QIO Resources”
- Click Link: “Getting Started with Data Entry Advancing Excellence (AE) Hospitalization Tracking Tool (Video) May 2013” and “Getting Started with Data Entry Advancing Excellence (AE) Hospitalization Tracking Tool (Video)”

AQAF Offers Hand-In-Hand Training

The Alabama Quality Assurance Foundation (AQAF) would like to help you comply with Section 6121 of the Affordable Care Act of 2010. The *Hand in Hand Training Series* is being made available to you and your staff as part of AQAF’s Statewide Learning Action Network events. AQAF is offering 25 “Train the Trainer” educational events over the next 12 months,

beginning July, 10 2013. The first training session will be held in the Mobile area at Allen Memorial Home.

As many of you are aware, CMS, supported by a team of training developers and subject matter experts, created the *Hand in Hand Training Series* to ensure that nurse aides receive regular training on caring for residents with dementia, and on preventing abuse. Additionally, the series aligns with the National Partnership to Improve Dementia Care.

CMS provided to every nursing home in the country a copy of the Hand in Hand Training Series Toolkit. The toolkit is contained within a very large binder. Do you know where your binder is? Have you had the opportunity to start training? Not to worry – let AQAF help you!

The training is best done with relatively small groups due to the nature of the training and the interactive component. They plan to limit attendance to 30 per session. AQAF encourages you to take advantage of this educational opportunity! Do not wait to register as it is anticipated that the sessions will fill up quickly. *Please refer to the attached flyer for event details.*

Funding Available for Applied Research Projects to Advance Person-Centered Care

The Harvey Picker Center of Innovation and Applied Research Program is seeking proposals for specific interventions and innovations within long term care settings that facilitate the development and advancement of person-centered cultures and person-centered care within the healthcare delivery system. The expected outcome of a grantee's project will be a demonstration, including a robust dissemination plan, of the measurable effects, affordability and sustainability of the effort to advance person-centered cultures and/or the implementation of person-centered care. The project must be consistent with one or more of the Planetree or Picker Principles of Patient-Centered Care. Details regarding the application process and eligibility can be found in the Request for Proposals at

<http://newsmanager.commpartners.com/ahcamemo/downloads/Ruta01.pdf>.

The purpose of the Harvey Picker Center of Innovation and Applied Research Program is to provide annual grants to support research of innovative projects which are designed to facilitate successful initiatives that will advance the development of person-centered cultures and implementation of person-centered care across the spectrum of long-term care settings and services.

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.

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.

Non for Profit Day at AHCA Annual Convention

The American Health Care Association (AHCA) is excited to announce its first Not for Profit (NFP) Providers Day held during this year's Convention & Expo in October. Session attendees will hear from leading industry experts as they discuss topics that are critical to long term and post-acute care. NFP Day is part of the "full" registration package or can be purchased as a separate ticketed event. You can earn up to 6.5 CEU's by attending this event. [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.

Presenters Announced for Alabama's Best Practices

Mark your calendars for August 29, 2013, for the Alabama's Best Practices Program at the Cahaba Grand Conference Center in Birmingham. Congratulations to the following facilities that have been chosen to make presentations for the 2013 Best Practices Program:

"Serenity Suite"	Oak Park Nursing Home
"Caring Paws"	Arbor Springs Health & Rehab Center
"5-Alive"	Hanceville Nursing and Rehab Center
"Off the Chain"	Coosa Valley Nursing Home
"Young Bloods"	Athens Rehabilitation Center & Senior Care
"Weight Watchers' Happy Hour"	River City Center
"Hicks & Giggles"	Haleyville Health and Rehab
"DARE to Care Program"	South Haven Health & Rehab - Birmingham

Participants will also receive information from twelve other facilities about their Best Practices. Approvals for six (6) hours of continuing education credit are pending for administrators, risk managers, assisted living administrators, social workers and activity professionals. An approval is also pending for CEUs for nurses. *More details to follow in the coming weeks.*

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Time</u>
June 28	ANHA Region VII Meeting RSVP: Gail McInnish (251) 937-3501, gail.mcinnish@infirmarhealth.org Guest Speaker: Elizabeth Connor, Alabama Medicaid Agency	Felix's Fish Camp Mobile	12:00 p.m.
July 22	Ms. Alabama Nursing Home Pageant	Hyatt at Wynfrey Hotel	2:00 p.m.
July 29	ANHA Facility Standards Committee Meeting	Hyatt at Wynfrey Hotel Birmingham	1:30 p.m.
July 30	Seminar: 2013 Summer Regulatory Update	Hyatt at Wynfrey Hotel Birmingham	8:30 a.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>