



Weekly Roundup

...Reporting the state and national long term care news

Please disseminate the relevant information contained in this week's edition of the Weekly Roundup to the appropriate department.

- Administration Nursing Dietary Activities Social Services
 Rehabilitation Housekeeping Maintenance Laundry

Friday, January 4, 2008

ANHA NEWS

Association Update

Congratulations to Marshall Manor Nursing Home for a Deficiency Free Survey

Congratulations to Jerry South, Administrator, Pat Gilliland, Director of Nursing, and all of the staff of Marshall Manor on their recent deficiency free survey. Such an accomplishment requires a complete team effort. Again, congratulations on your accomplishment! The facility is located in Guntersville, Alabama and is owned by Preston Health Services Inc.

Happy 103rd Birthday to Ms. Madie Leonard



Ms. Madie Leonard celebrated her 103rd birthday on December 17. She is an active resident of Woodland Village Health Care Center located in Cullman, AL.

Happy Birthday!



Mabry and Mary McNorton play Joseph and Mary in "The Birth of Christ". These individuals participated in the annual pageant put on by the residents of the Grand Bay Convalescent Home. The couple have been married for 69 years.

REGULATORY NEWS

Revisit User Fees Eliminated - President Signs Omnibus Bill

We are pleased to report that through successful lobbying efforts and significant grassroots support from nursing facilities, the Survey & Certification Revisit User Fee has been eliminated with the President's signature of the omnibus spending bill, the *Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2008 (H.R. 2764)*. Providers will no longer be assessed this fee for survey revisits, retaining nearly \$35 million in critical funding for skilled nursing services. *It is important to note that fees no longer exist as of December 26, 2007 and any surveys conducted prior to the President's signature of this legislation which warrant a revisit will be assessed the fee.*

FDA Safety Information and Adverse Event Reporting Program

Bayer Diabetes Care notified healthcare professionals and consumers of a voluntary market recall of test strips (sensors) used exclusively with the Contour TS Blood Glucose Meter. The product was recalled because test strips from specific lots could result in blood glucose readings with a positive bias that could demonstrate 5 - 17% higher test results. This issue is unrelated to the Contour TS meter itself and pertains only to certain test strips used with the meter. There is no impact on the performance of strips with other Bayer meters.

Healthcare professionals, retailers, patients and other customers who use Contour TS are advised to check the lot number of the test strips in their inventory and contact Bayer Diabetes Care for information regarding the return and replacement of strips. See the manufacturer's press release for specific product lot numbers affected by this recall.

Read the complete 2007 MedWatch Safety Summary including a link to the manufacturer's press release regarding this issue: <http://www.fda.gov/medwatch/safety/2007/safety07.htm#diabetes>.

RAI Manual Updates

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services has posted the RAI Manual Updates for January 2008. The RAI Manual January Update 2008 can be found at http://www.cms.hhs.gov/nursinghomequalityinits/20_nhqimds20.asp.

EDUCATION UPDATE

Legal Compliance in Nursing Homes Educational Seminar – January 22nd

Please mark your calendars for January 22, 2008, as ANHA will present a seminar entitled “Legal Compliance in Nursing Homes.” This seminar will be held at the Wynfrey Hotel in Birmingham, Alabama and will cover the following topics: Using Documentation to Position for Positive Outcomes; Abating Immediate Jeopardy and Developing Plans of Correction; Challenging Survey Findings: Quality Assurance Review, Informal Dispute Resolution, and CMS Appeals; Documenting Medical Necessity; Understanding the Resident Discharge Process; Arbitration in Long Term Care: Update on Alabama Law; and Top Ten Labor & Employment Issues in Long Term Care. Attorneys from the firm Johnston, Barton, Proctor and Rose will be the presenters. The seminar will begin at 8:30 pm and conclude at 4:30 pm. Registration will begin at 7:30 am. This seminar has been approved for 6 hours of continuing education for nursing home administrators and social workers. This seminar has also been approved for 7.2 contact hours for nurses. *Please see the enclosed brochure for more details regarding this event.*

“Attain and Maintain: Restorative Care and Services Program” Educational Seminar – February 12th

Please mark your calendars for February 12, 2008, as ANHA will present a seminar entitled “Attain and Maintain: Restorative Care and Services Program.” This seminar will be held at the Wynfrey Hotel in Birmingham, Alabama. The seminar will begin at 8:30 am and conclude at 4:30 pm. Registration will begin at 7:30 am. This seminar has been approved for 6 hours of continuing education for nursing home administrators. This seminar has also been approved for 7.2 contact hours for nurses. *More information regarding this seminar will come in the following weeks.*

“Good Care Makes Money: The Role of the MDS to Facilitate Maximizing Reimbursement” Educational Seminar – March 24th & March 25th

Please mark your calendars for March 24th and March 25th, 2008, as ANHA will present a seminar entitled “Good Care Makes Money: The role of the MDS to Facilitate Maximizing Reimbursement.” This seminar will be held at the Wynfrey Hotel in Birmingham, Alabama. The seminar will begin at 9:00 am and conclude at 5:30 pm on Day 1 and begin at 8:00 am and conclude at 4:30 pm on Day 2. Registration will begin at 7:00 am. This seminar has been approved for 14 hours of continuing education for nursing home administrators and social workers. This seminar has also been approved for 16.8 contact hours for nurses. *More information regarding this seminar will come in the following weeks.*

Medicaid Provider Workshops

EDS has invited all Medicaid providers to attend upcoming provider educational workshops. The workshops will introduce you to interChange, the new Medicaid claims processing system, which will be implemented on February 23, 2008. The interChange claims processing system will bring some changes to the way you are currently submitting claims to Medicaid.

Several workshops will be offered in different locations across the state during the months of January and February 2008. They are asking a limit of three attendees from each office attend, so they may accommodate all providers.

The workshops will provide information about the changes to billing necessary for National Provider Identifier (NPI), new interactive web portal, new claim form requirements and Provider Electronic Solutions upgrade. This workshop is vital to learn about new tools and changes for NPI claims processing.

You may register for a workshop at the following Medicaid website:

http://www.medicaid.alabama.gov/billing/ichange_provider_workshops.aspx

STATE NEWS

Alabama Medical Directors Association News

The Alabama Medical Directors Association is the professional association of physicians and other professionals practicing in the long term care continuum, dedicated to excellence in patient care by providing education, advocacy, information, and professional development.

Their goal is to continue educational programs and advocacy activities to help all Medical Directors and other health care providers maintain the highest level of quality care for our patients.

Their Mid Winter Conference will be held at the Sheraton-Medical Forum, Birmingham, Alabama, on February 16, 2008. Their educational program will provide an opportunity to advance scientific information to attendees, which will ultimately improve patient care. This year's program includes the following topics: "Fall Risk Management Care Planning"; "Post-Stroke Care in the LTC", "Teaming with your Facilities' Consultant Pharmacist for Win/Win Results, Update on Neuro-psychiatric management of Residents with Dementia", and "Wound Care in the Long Term Care Setting." The program provides Continuing Education hours for Medical Directors, Attending Physicians, Administrators, CRNP's, RNs and LPN's.

If you are interested in attending this conference, please contact Lee Ann Cole, Executive Director, and request a registration form. Ms. Cole's contact information is listed below.

Alabama Medical Directors Association
9455 Briarlea Court / Montgomery, AL 36117
334-271-1536 or E-Mail at Lcole1019@AOL.com

Medicaid Reimbursement Issues

The ANHA Payment for Services committee will meet in January to discuss the Medicaid Reimbursement System. We are requesting that ANHA members send any rate setting issues, desk audit adjustments, and recent fair hearing results to the ANHA office at 4156 Carmichael Road, Montgomery, Alabama 36106, so that these issues may be addressed at the meeting. If you have questions regarding this, please contact Katrina Magdon at kmagdon@anha.org or by phone at 334-271-6214.

Medicaid Rates Set

All facilities should have received their 2008 Medicaid rates. Facilities are reminded that if they have any problems with the rate or feel that an error was made in the calculation, a request can be made for an informal conference. The request for an informal conference must be received by Medicaid within 30 days of the date the rate setting letter was mailed by Medicaid.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Time</u>
Jan. 10	ANHA Education/Convention Committee Meeting	ANHA Office Montgomery, AL	10:00 am
Jan. 10	ANHA Facility Standards Committee Meeting	ANHA Office Montgomery, AL	1:00 pm
Jan. 15	ANHA Board Meeting	ANHA Office Montgomery, AL	10:00 am
Jan. 15	ANHA Legislative Committee Meeting	ANHA Offices Montgomery, AL	2:30 pm
Jan. 17	Region 4 Administrators Meeting	Ruby Tuesday Anniston, AL	1:00pm
Jan. 22	Legal Compliance Seminar	Wynfrey Hotel Birmingham, AL	8:30 am
Jan. 23	Region 3 Administrators Meeting	Rehab & Healthcare Center of Birmingham Birmingham, AL	12:00 noon
Jan 24	ANHA Payment For Services Committee Meeting	Johnston, Barton Offices Birmingham, AL	10:00 am

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>