



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, February 13, 2009

ANHA NEWS

CMS Issues New Guidance at Quality of Care – F309 and other Survey Process Changes

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has issued a Survey and Certification Letter that makes changes to the survey process as well as issues new guidance for F309 Quality of Care. **The changes to the survey process become effective March 1, 2009.** The changes to the survey process are as follows: 1) Deleting the investigative protocol for unintended weight loss (currently under Appendix P, II.B. The Traditional Standard Survey, Sub-Task 5C) due to the June 2008 issuance of the revised guidance at F325 Nutrition; 2) Revising portions of the Appendix P Table of Contents to reflect the three deletions listed above; 3) Removing a sentence under F286 Use [of the Resident Assessment] that had mandated the storage of paper copies of the MDS for homes that have all-electronic clinical records. The retention of paper copies is no longer required for these homes; 4) Renumbering Part M of Sub-Task 5C, Review of Influenza and Pneumococcal Immunizations as section K due to removal of current K and L sections; and 5) Removing the outdated demand bill survey procedure in Appendix P, Part VII and replacing it with new procedural language at Sub-Task 5C Resident Review, as new part L, Liability Notices and Beneficiary Appeal Rights.

The following changes are being made to F309: 1) Completely revising the general quality of care guidance at this Tag; 2) Adding a new general investigative protocol for quality of care; 3) Adding major new guidance and an investigative protocol for pain management; and 4) Moving the survey protocol language regarding review of residents receiving hospice care and dialysis services (currently under Appendix P, II.B. The Traditional Standard Survey, Sub-Task 5C Resident Review, parts K and L) into F309. The changes to F309 become effective March 31, 2009.

Survey and Certification Issues Related to Liability Notices and Beneficiary Appeal Rights in Nursing Homes (S&C-09-20)

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has issued a memorandum that reviews a Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) provider's obligations to issue Medicare beneficiary liability notices, a Medicare beneficiary's rights related to standard claim and expedited appeals; and the surveyor's responsibility to determine compliance with Medicare notice and billing requirements for determinations of non-coverage. The SNF provider must inform the beneficiary of potential liability for payment for non-covered services when limitation of liability applies. The SNF must provide a written notice to the Medicare beneficiary explaining his/her right to file an expedited

appeal upon termination of all Medicare covered services. Appendix P of the SOM, Survey Protocol for Long Term Care Facilities, Part VII will be deleted. The information in this memo will be moved to Sub-Task 5C, and a new section on Liability Notices and Beneficiary Appeal Rights will be created. This memo does not apply to beneficiaries with Medicare Advantage. *Attached please find a copy of the CMS S&C-09-20 memorandum.*

FFS Expedited Determination Notices and Instructions

As of July 1, 2005, Home Health Agencies (HHAs), Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNFs), Comprehensive Outpatient Rehabilitation Facilities (CORFs) and Hospices with beneficiaries in Fee-For-Service (FFS) Medicare are required to notify beneficiaries of their right to a new expedited review process when these providers anticipate that Medicare coverage of their services will end.

HHA, SNF, Hospice, CORF, and swing beds (under instruction) are required to provide a Generic Notice to beneficiaries to alert them that Medicare covered item(s) and/or service(s) are ending and give beneficiaries the opportunity to request an expedited determination from the QIO. A Detailed Notice is given when the QIO review is requested in order to provide more explanation on why coverage is ending.

Effective October 1, 2005, HHA, SNF, Hospice, CORF, and swing beds must use approved versions of the Expedited Determination notices.

New revised notices became mandatory on November 1, 2008. It is our understanding that the Alabama Quality Assurance Foundation (AQAF) sent this information to facilities. We are providing this information to you. Please ensure that you are using the correct forms with expiration dates of July 31, 2011. The OMB-approved Notice of Medicare Provider Noncoverage (CMS-10123) and Detailed Explanation of Noncoverage (CMS-10124) are now available for download and immediate use from the CMS website. The expiration date for the renewed forms is 07/31/2011. Mandatory use of the renewed forms began on November 1, 2008.

Attached you will find the above mentioned forms. We are including the forms (CMS-10123 and CMS-10124) in a word document so that facilities can add their logo/facility name as well as add specific detailed information to the form. We are providing the instructions for the form in a pdf file.

PASRR Reminder

In 1987 Congress passed PL 100-203, Preadmission Screening Resident Review (PASRR) which required all applicants and residents of Medicaid certified NF, regardless of payment source, to be screened for mental illness (MI) and mental retardation/related conditions (MR/RC).

We have been notified that state surveyors have been issuing deficiencies for PASRR non-compliance based on federal and state requirements that will include:

- No Level I Screening, Level I Determination and Level II Determination, if applicable, in the chart
- No Level I Screening and Determination dated on or before nursing home admission for new admits
- No Level I Screening that reflects the resident's current mental health status

- No resident's care plan that incorporates recommended Mental Health Services indicated on the "PASRR Level II Service Determination"

Correction and Clarification regarding Convalescent Care:

When checking Convalescent Care on # 7 of the Level I Screening, you do not have to have the actual order for OT/PT since you usually do not get the order until discharge. But you do have to have something from the MD in the chart such as in the progress notes indicating OT/PT when discharged to the nursing home. The Level I Screening can be completed anytime as long as you have documentation to support your answers at the time of completing the Level I Screening.

We are asking that facilities take the time to review their medical records to ensure that all the PASRR documentation is in order. ***Please note that we understand that over \$100,000 has been recouped from nursing homes by Medicaid due to Level I Screening violations.***

Reminder: The OBRA PASRR Office will be closed on Monday, February 16, 2009 in honor of President's Day. They will re-open on Tuesday, February 17, 2009. Level I screenings that require a quality assurance review will be completed and a determination will be returned the following business day.

The OBRA Screening office is holding monthly training sessions for facilities regarding PASRR requirements. The next monthly seminar presented by the OBRA PASRR Office will be held on March 6, 2009, at the Alabama Public Library in Montgomery, Alabama. The registration deadline is February 20th. For more details regarding PASRR compliance or to register for this seminar, please contact Kathy McPherson, Director of the OBRA PASRR Office, at 800-548-2188 or 334-242-3946.

Attention Associate Members – Mid-Year Sponsorships Available

Information pertaining to the Mid-Year convention will be released in the next few weeks. As in the past, ANHA would very much like for your company to help us with sponsorships and have your logo printed in our advertisement materials. We encourage any associate member who is interested in sponsoring an event at Mid-Year to contact Katrina Magdon at the Association office (334) 271-6214. Do not miss this opportunity to showcase your company!

2009 ANHA Mid-Year Convention

Make your plans now to attend the 2009 ANHA Mid-Year Convention, May 4th – 7th, at the Perdido Beach Resort in Orange Beach, Alabama. Nursing home administrators, social workers, activity directors, risk managers and assisted living administrators can earn 12 hours of continuing education. We have 16.2 contact hours approved for nurses by the Alabama Board of Nursing Provider #ABNP0151 – expires 3/12/2013. Reservations can be made by calling the Perdido Beach Resort at 1-800-459-4278 or reservations can be made on-line at www.perdidobeachresort.com (Our Group Code is 2831). The following rates have been negotiated with the Perdido Beach Resort for our 2009 Mid-Year Convention Attendees:

\$172 per Standard/Double Room
\$232 per Gulf Front Single/Double Room

To ensure availability of reservation space, all participants are encouraged to make their overnight reservations **BY MARCH 31st**.

After this date, rooms from our block which are not reserved will be released for general sales to the public and availability cannot be guaranteed. Please watch for more details regarding this event in the coming weeks.

CMS Updates Five-Star Quality Rating Technical Users' Guide

A new version of the Five-Star Quality Rating Technical Users' Guide and an accompanying Summary of Updates to the Technical Users' Guide document are available on the Five-Star Quality Rating System Web page. The new version of the Users' Guide includes increased detail on staffing domain and case-mix adjustment, changes to nursing home rating and updated new tables. We encourage you to continue to view and monitor your Five-Star rating.

SouthernLINC Cell Phone “Call Down” Begins February 17

On February 17, the Alabama Department of Public Health will begin a weekly “call down” of facilities that have SouthernLINC cell phones provided by ANHA. The “call down” is an emergency preparedness exercise in which ADPH will two-way radio each facility’s SouthernLINC and the facility will respond that it is present. *Attached is a memo from ANHA with detailed instructions on how to program your SouthernLINC and how to respond to the “call down.”* Please contact John Matson at the Association Office at (334) 271-6214 or jmatson@anha.org if you have any questions.

Attention Directors of Nursing from the Alabama Board of Nursing

It is now time to complete the 2009 Annual Report of Standardized Procedures. You should have received an e-mail directly from the Alabama Board of Nursing that included directions specific to this report. In addition to the demographic information requested the last several years, this year’s report requires submission of the name and license number of your assistant director of nursing.

As with last year’s report, this is an on-line report and does **not** require the submission of any additional applications or programs of study to the ABN at this time. The policy and procedure, organized program of study, plan for supervised clinical practice and plan for initial and periodic demonstrated competence for each Standardized Procedure listed in the report are to be retained at the facility or a designated location and be readily accessible upon request.

This year you will be asked to “edit” each procedure listing and verify whether or not a policy is currently in place for the procedure listed. Follow the directions you received carefully and call the ABN if you have questions.

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 Alabama facilities within your corporation.

The deadline for the 2009 Annual Report of Standardized Procedures for all facilities in Alabama including Nursing Homes is **April 15, 2009**.

If you need directions or assistance completing the report, contact Carolyn Morgan, Practice Consultant at the Alabama Board of Nursing, at 334.353.8447 or cmorgan@abn.state.al.us

Blue Advantage To Allow Initial 8 Day SNF Certification With No Pre-Payment Review...Precertification Still Required and Update

As a result of ANHA meetings with Blue Cross/Blue Shield (BC/BS) effective October 21, 2008, Blue Advantage will certify the member’s initial SNF stay for 8 days with no review. We were contacted this week by BC/BS and asked to notify SNF’s that, while the 8 day stays will be certified initially with no review, there has been some misunderstanding in the provider community where facilities interpreted the “no review” policy to mean that no precertification

will be needed. *Please note that while the 8 day stay will be allowed with no pre-payment review, the precertification requirement still exists. Facilities are still required to obtain an authorization number for SNF care and must submit documentation to establish the member's baseline and plan of care. Any stay beyond the initial 8 days will require a continued stay review. Should the SNF staff feel, upon admission, that the stay will require more than the initial 8 days, BC/BS will work with the facility in performing an extended stay review in advance of day 8.* BC/BS will send an update on this issue in the very near future. Until then, be sure to obtain a pre-certification before admitting a resident whose stay will be covered by Blue Advantage.

ANHA continues to work through issues with BC/BS. We are in the process of submitting questions to them regarding issues that have surfaced since our last meeting with them. We are still encouraging facilities that are encountering problems with the BC/BS Blue Advantage Program to send details of the issues to Katrina Magdon at the Association Office at kmagdon@anha.org or fax (334) 244-6509.

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. Enclosed is the 2009 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 13, 2009. Nominations are due by April 20, 2009. *Please see the attached flyer for more details.*

EDUCATION NEWS

Revised Surveyor Guidance for Quality Care in Nursing Homes – March 16th

Join ANHA as we present "Revised Surveyor Guidelines for Quality of Care in Nursing Homes." The seminar will be held March 16th at The Wynfrey Hotel in Birmingham and will be a joint training session for nursing home staff and state surveyors.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has revised the guidance and survey protocol for Quality of Care (F309), and made other changes to the survey process.

Ms. Carol Hill, Ms. Loula Walker and Dr. Geary will be the speakers. This program has been approved for 3 hours of CEU credits by the Alabama Board of Examiners for Nursing Home Administrators and the Alabama Board of Social Work Examiners (Provider #0012). It has also been approved for 3.6 contact hours of continuing education by the Alabama Board of Nursing (ABNP0151 expires 3/12/2013). *Please see the attached brochure for more details regarding this event.*

Alabama Medical Directors Association Mid Winter Conference

The Alabama Medical Directors Association (ALMDA) will hold its Mid Winter Conference on February 28, 2009, in Birmingham, Alabama. The ALMDA 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.

Topics will include:

Wound Care Update

Nutrition and the new F325Tag

Nutrition and Weight Loss in the LTC Resident

Hospice Services in LTC, Who's Eligible?"

Trade Secrets

Please contact the ALMDA at 334-271-1536 or 334-315-2442, or e-mail Lee Ann Cole at Lcole1019@aol.com for more information.

FACILITY NEWS

Chapman Healthcare Center Celebrates Milestone Birthdays!



Chapman Healthcare Center has reason to celebrate! Mr. Guy Litsey, left, recently marked his 107th birthday. Mr. McKay Mitchell, right, celebrated his 104th birthday! Chapman Healthcare Center is located in Alexander City.

Hatley Health Care Resident Celebrates 100th Birthday!



Hatley Health Care resident Ms. Dorothy Daniel recently celebrated her 100th birthday! Ms. Daniel is a retired school teacher from Chilton County and a graduate of Auburn University. She played basketball at Auburn and was honored last year on her 99th birthday for being the oldest living Auburn athlete. Ms. Daniel was given a very special birthday celebration attended by many friends, family and former students. Hatley Health Care is located in Clanton.

Aliceville Manor Elects Valentine King and Queen



Aliceville Manor Nursing Home recently held its annual Valentine King and Queen Contest with the winners being voted on by residents and staff. The 2009 King is Arthur Knox and the Queen is Brenda Gibson. The royal couple will be recognized at Aliceville Manor's Valentine's party on Friday, February 13.

OTHER NEWS

ANHA Sponsorship Opportunities Now Available

It is now time for your company to sponsor ANHA events. *Attached please find our 2009 Sponsorship Opportunities sign-up sheet.* We encourage all of our Associate Members to take advantage of sponsoring ANHA events. All sign-ups are on a first come first serve basis. Our sponsorships go very quickly, so please act now!

Deadline for 2009 AHCA Quality Awards Coming Soon

The deadlines to apply for the 2009 AHCA/NCAL National Quality Awards are fast approaching! Facilities may apply for recognition and awards at three levels. Step I applications are due by February 27, 2009, and Step II and III applications are due March 31, 2009. Since its inception in 1996, more than 1200 facilities have been recognized with a Step I, II or III Quality Award, with more than 340 facilities receiving awards in 2008. All nursing and assisted living facilities and developmental disability (DD) residential services providers that are members in good standing of AHCA and NCAL are eligible to participate. To download an application packet, please visit the AHCA/NCAL Quality Award web site at



http://www.ahcancal.org/quality_improvement/quality_award/Pages/default.aspx. For more information, please contact [Courtney Krier](mailto:ckrier@ahca.org) at AHCA at ckrier@ahca.org.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Time</u>
February 16 th	ANHA Public Relations Committee Conference Call		10:00 a.m.
February 18 th	ANHA Payment for Services Committee Meeting	ANHA Office Montgomery	1:00 p.m.

February 19 th	ANHA Executive Board Meeting	ANHA Office	10:00 a.m.
February 20 th	ANHA Region VII Meeting Contact: Gail McInnish (251) 937-3501	Felix's Fish Camp Mobile	12:00 p.m.
February 20 th	ANHA Region VIII Meeting Lunch will be provided RSVP by Feb. 18 to Sal.Lee Sasser at (334) 222-2133	Enterprise Health & Rehab Center, Enterprise	11:00 a.m.
February 27 th	ANHA Region II Nurses Auxiliary Meeting RSVP to Carol Hendrix at (256) 437-7263 or gmurph@jchca.org	Catfish Cabin Albertville	11:30 a.m.
March 5 th	ANHA Life Safety Code & Physical Plant Committee Meeting	ANHA Office Montgomery	1:00 p.m.
March 16 th	"Revised Surveyor Guidance for Quality of Care in Nursing Homes"	The Wynfrey Hotel	12:30 p.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>