

June 30, 2023

Message From the President



Facility Members & Business Partners,

On July 2nd of 1776, the Continental Congress voted in favor of independence, and two days later delegates from the 13 colonies adopted the Declaration of Independence asserting that the 13 colonies were united, free, and independent states and in doing so effectively proclaimed American independence. We celebrate Independence Day with fireworks, barbecues, baseball, family gatherings, etc. What a great way to celebrate the great nation that is the United States of America and I am sure you have all sorts of fun activities planned for your residents. I hope you, your residents,

your friends, and your family have a great time this 4th of July!!

Your MHCA Team took a quick minute to catch their breath after the legislative session wrapped up but then got right back to work. Nikki and our lobbyists are actively meeting with the Governor’s office and legislators around the state to continue to share our story. The summer and fall are a great time for us as an association to start new relationships and expand existing relationships with our elected officials. This helps lay the groundwork for the next legislative session. Please be sure to do your part by getting your State Representative and State Senator into your facility. Those visits offer a great opportunity to let them see the amazing things our Healthcare HEROES do in our facilities each and every day. Also, be on the lookout for a call to action from the MHCA and/or the American Health Care Association regarding the federal minimum staffing standard. That proposed rule will require action on our part most likely in the form of comment letters to CMS. The more unique comment letters we can generate the more impactful we can be. Let’s make sure we do our part!

Please take some time between all of your fun summer activities to register for the Missouri Health Care Association’s 75th annual convention. Hard to believe it is only two months away!! Also, be sure to make your hotel arrangements because they fill up fast! We have a lot to celebrate during this year’s convention, but we also have a lot work to do as we continue to prepare for the new acuity based Medicaid reimbursement system, etc. I look forward to seeing you all in Branson!!

Sincerely,

Eric Doerhoff
MHCA President 2022-2023

In This Issue. . .

- [Reimbursement & Budget](#)..2
- [Legislative Update](#).....3-4
- [COVID-19 Updates](#) 4-6
- [Certificate of Need](#)..... 6
- [AHCA & National News](#).. 6-8
- [Regulatory Update](#) 8-15
- [Quality, Programs & Resources](#)..... 15-18
- [Assisted Living Update](#) 18-19
- [Membership Updates & Services](#).....20
- [Career Openings](#) 20
- [Convention Updates](#)..... 20-21
- [2022 Sponsors](#) 22
- [Education & Events](#)..... 23



Contact Us

Missouri Health Care Assn.
236 Metro Drive
Jefferson City, MO 65109
(P) 573.893.2060
(F) 573.893.5248
(TF) 800.392.0751
www.mohealthcare.com



Missouri Health Care Association

Reimbursement and Budget Updates

FY 2024 Budget Signing-Governor Agrees to \$10/PPD SNF Medicaid Increase

Just a short time ago the Governor signed the state's FY24 budget giving final approval to many items and vetoing nearly \$400 million from approximately 150 different lines in the budget. Since the action taken by the Governor happened just minutes ago, we have not had enough time to analyze all the vetoes; however, we have good news to report, the Governor has approved the \$10/PPD increase to our SNF Medicaid rate!

We will have more details in the coming days and weeks; however, here is all we know at this time. Contained in the budget bills is a \$10/PPD increase plus a small increase to the value-based payment incentive to the SNF Medicaid Rate. MO HealthNet was able to timely post the required public notice today, June 30, therefore, the increase will be effective on July 1, 2023. However, please keep in mind, as with all increases or changes to our Medicaid rate, this increase must still be approved by CMS before the state can begin to pay the \$10 increase. We will keep you updated as that progresses.

Please understand, we realize that this increase doesn't cover the significant underfunding you continue to experience due to the significant increases in labor and other costs that have plagued our facilities since COVID. However, it is our hope as you work to increase your CMI's and we work toward another rebasing, that this increase will offer you some relief. We are currently working with MO HealthNet and requesting they, along with the Governor, consider recommending another rebase next legislative session. If the administration is in agreement, then this rebasing would capture post-COVID and other increased costs our facilities have incurred since 2019 which is the year the last rebase was based on. We know the cost of the next rebase will come with a significant price tag to the state, so we have tough work ahead of us. We are in the early stages of these conversations and will report as the conversations continue in the months ahead.

Update on January 1, 2023, CMI/VBP Rate Adjustments

The state finally received the approval from CMS for the Data Share Agreement late this week. As you will recall, this document is necessary in order for MO HealthNet to get the updated resident listing information from DHSS which is necessary to finalize the January 1, 2023 rates. We are waiting to hear what the timeline is for the release of the January 1, 2023 final rate letters. As soon as we know, we will share that information with the membership. The good news is that this month's long roadblock created by CMS's inaction is finally out of the way and the state can move forward. We anticipate the state will move forward quickly, but don't want to guess on a timeframe but will let you know as soon as we know.

Legislative Update

Governor Begins Taking Action on Legislation Passed During 2023 Legislative Session

As reported last month, there were very few policy-related bills passed during the 2023 legislative session. The Governor has until July 14 to either veto, sign or simply let a bill become law. To date, the Governor has signed very few bills. All bills approved will become law on August 28, 2023, unless an emergency clause was added to the legislation.

As you know, there were several bills that passed the general assembly this year that will be helpful to our workforce issues such as Upskill Incentives, and Loan Repayment Programs. We have not heard yet when these bills will be signed into law and will keep you updated on their progress. Below is an overview of these bills:

- Upskill Incentives- This legislation creates new provisions allowing the Department of Economic Development (DED) to disburse grants to qualifying employers for each employee or prospective employee who obtains upskill credentials. Upon being given a preliminary award for reimbursement, each qualifying employer must sponsor a current or prospective employee to obtain an upskill credential within 12 months of the preliminary award. Employees may not commence the process of obtaining the credential until after a preliminary award has been made. Upon obtaining a credential, the employer shall submit proof of the same to DED along with proof that the individual who completed the training is a Missouri resident with a verifiable Missouri address.
- Loan Repayment Program- Legislation has been passed to establish the Health Professional Loan Repayment Program within the Department of Health and Senior Services, offering forgivable loans to pay off existing student loans and other education expenses for health care, mental health, and public health professionals. This repayment program incentivizes health care professionals to work in rural or underserved areas.

Legislative Tours

Legislative visits and your grassroots efforts are VITAL to our ability to be successful in passing another rebase to the SNF Medicaid rates during the 2024 legislative session. PLEASE reach out to your legislators and set a time for them to tour your facility. Also, please be prepared to outline your continued financial struggles. These meetings are working as we had MANY legislators advocating for SNF Medicaid rate increases during the 2023 legislative session. WE NEED TO KEEP UP THIS MOMENTUM!

There is no better time than now through December to invite your legislators to your facility. It's a great strategy to let legislators have first-hand experiences of the care you provide in a SNF. This gives them a great perspective and will rely on your expertise in this industry prior to making decisions that impact your operation. This also gives you the opportunity to discuss your current financial and workforce struggles with your legislators. We can't express enough how important these facility visits will be to our future reimbursement and other legislative successes. **If you do host legislators, we will be highlighting your advocacy efforts on social media and in the newsletter!**

Please schedule these meetings today or reach out to Sarah Henke at sarah@mohealthcare.com to receive help in scheduling a visit with your elected officials.

COVID-19 & Influenza Updates

CMS Final Rule Removes COVID-19 Testing and Staff Vaccination Requirements

On May 31, 2023, CMS announced a [final rule](#), “Medicare and Medicaid Programs; Policy and Regulatory Changes to the Omnibus COVID-19 Health Care Staff Vaccination Requirements; Additional Policy and Regulatory Changes to the Requirements for Long-Term Care (LTC) Facilities and Intermediate Care Facilities for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities (ICFs-IID) to Provide COVID-19 Vaccine Education and Offer Vaccinations to Residents, Clients, and Staff; Policy and Regulatory Changes to the Long Term Care Facility COVID-19 Testing Requirements.”

Please note: These changes took effect on June 5, 2023.

This rule makes three key changes:

- Removes expired language addressing staff and resident COVID-19 testing requirements issued in the interim final rule (IFR) [“LTC Facility Testing”](#) on September 2, 2020.
 - This removes section 483.80(h) of the Requirements of Participation.
- Withdraws the regulations published in the IFR [“COVID-19 Health Care Staff Vaccination”](#) on November 5, 2021.
 - This means that the requirement to have all staff vaccinated for COVID-19 or receive a medical exemption will be removed.
 - Note - COVID-19 vaccination of health care staff and residents will be reported through the SNF Quality Reporting Program (QRP).
- Finalizes certain provisions published in the IFR [“COVID-19 Vaccine Educate and Offer”](#) on May 13, 2021.
 - Requirements for LTC facilities to educate staff and residents about and offer the COVID-19 vaccine remain in effect.
 - Guidance for this rule is available in [QSO-21-19-NH](#) and this rule maintains the requirement to report COVID-19 vaccine status for residents and staff to the NHSN.

Infection Control Pathway Updated to Reflect End of Staff Vaccine Requirement

CMS updated the [Infection Control Critical Element \(CE\)](#) pathway related to the end of the Healthcare Provider COVID-19 Vaccine Mandate announced May 31, 2023. The pathway was updated to remove all surveyor guidance related to F888 (Staff COVID-19 Vaccine). Surveyors are advised to verify compliance with requirements for educating and offering COVID-19 immunization only. All other areas regarding staff COVID vaccines were removed from the pathway. The [Entrance Conference form](#) was also updated to remove all staff COVID-19 vaccine requirements. The Entrance Conference form removed the need for facilities to maintain a COVID-19 vaccine matrix. Facilities are reminded to continue to document COVID-19 vaccine education to both residents and staff.

There is also a change, unrelated to the vaccine update. Under “Instructions” for the Interim LTCSP Initial Survey and Certification Process, facilities that are not yet certified should still complete minimum data set (MDS) assessments, despite not being able to submit them until the facility is certified.

The [Final Rule](#) was added to the Federal Register, as expected. The rule becomes effective on August 4, 2023. Please email questions to regulatory@ahca.org.

Infection Control Pathway Updated to Reflect End of Staff Vaccine Requirement

The NHSN updates to the LTCF COVID-19 Surveillance Pathways are now live. More information, along with recent trainings and resources, can be found on the [LTCF COVID-19 Pathway website](#).

If you have any questions, please contact the NHSN at nhsn@cdc.gov.

Medicare Billing for Administration of the COVID-19 Vaccine

During the public health emergency (PHE), CMS utilized enforcement discretion to allow entities, such as long-term care pharmacies, that provide vaccinations to SNF residents to directly bill and receive payment for the administration of COVID-19, influenza, and pneumococcal vaccines. The enforcement discretion stated:

“CMS will exercise discretion (1) during the emergency period defined in paragraph (1)(B) of section 1135(g) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1320b-5(g)) and ending on the last day of the calendar quarter in which the last of such emergency period occurs; or (2) so long as CMS determines that there is a public health need for mass COVID-19 vaccinations in congregate care settings – whichever is later.”

CMS did not extend this enforcement discretion, meaning that it will end on June 30, 2023. Providers are encouraged to review [CMS Billing Guidance: Medicare Billing for COVID-19 Vaccine Shot Administration](#) for detailed information on billing to start preparing now for this change in billing.

Missouri Nursing Facility Strike Team and Infrastructure Reimbursement Opportunity

On March 1, 2023, DHSS released information about the Missouri Nursing Facility Strike Team and Infrastructure Award, a reimbursement opportunity available to Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNF) and Long Term Care and Other Nursing Facilities (LTC).

Beginning March 1, facility owners and operators have been able to apply for reimbursement for expenses incurred between July 1, 2022 and August 31, 2023, directly related to preparing, preventing, and responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. The intention of this funding is to provide supplemental support to Missouri’s skilled nursing, other long-term care and other nursing facilities during their response to SARS-CoV-2 infections, and also to build and maintain the infection prevention infrastructure necessary to support resident, visitor, and facility healthcare personnel safety. If you operated a SNF or LTC licensed with DHSS between July 1, 2022 and August 31, 2023, then you are eligible for reimbursement for allowable expenses.

After the application period was opened March 1, 2023, the program was made aware of additional federal administrative requirements that impact the implementation of the program. These requirements do not change the eligibility criteria for facilities or the allowable cost categories but do identify that expenditures for activities that were previously paid or reimbursed by federal funds are not allowed for reimbursement through this award. **Only expenses that have not been reimbursed by another federal fund source are allowable for reimbursement from this opportunity.**

A very few additional facilities have also been made eligible for this opportunity and this does slightly impact the eligible amount per licensed bed for both SNF and LTC, but the impact is less than a percentage point different in each type of facility.

Facility operators that have already applied for these funds do not need to do anything to adjust their applications but do need to be aware of the additional guidance and revised amounts and be prepared to ensure that costs submitted for reimbursement meet the federal requirements. DHSS will provide additional information to existing applicants and will advise if any adjustments or additional information are needed on a case-by-case basis.

Updated guidance and eligible amounts are posted on the [DHSS website for COVID-19 Health Care Professionals](#) under the heading “Information for Long-Term Care Facilities”. All questions should be directed to the DHSS Strike Team via email at LTCStrikeTeam@health.mo.gov.

HRSA Provider Relief Bureau Ceases Distributions

In a recent [program update](#) from June 2023, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA) announced the following:

“With the passage of the [Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023](#) and related rescission of program funds, no further payments will be made to providers under the Provider Relief Fund or the American Rescue Plan Rural Distribution, including no reconsideration payments. Likewise, no additional claims payments will be made under the Uninsured Program or Coverage Assistance Fund. Per the Terms and Conditions of each Program, all reporting and auditing requirements will continue without disruption.”

The four provider relief programs administered by the Provider Relief Bureau (PRB) that will no longer issue payments unless already obligated, even if applications were submitted prior to the recent enactment of the Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023 on June 3, 2023, are:

1. Provider Relief Fund (PRF)
2. American Rescue Plan Rural Distribution
3. COVID-19 Claims Reimbursement to Health Care Providers and Facilities for Testing, Treatment, and Vaccine Administration for the Uninsured Program
UIP stopped accepting claims due to a lack of sufficient funds in April 2022.
4. COVID-19 Coverage Assistance Fund (CAF)
CAF stopped accepting claims due to a lack of sufficient funds in April 2022.

The HRSA Provider Support Line is (866) 569-3522 (for TTY dial 711).

Certificate of Need

On May 1, 2023, the Missouri Health Facilities Review Committee (MHFRC) met in Jefferson City, MO. To view the Certificate of Need (CON) decisions for this meeting, please click [here](#). To view the CON decisions for all other past meetings, please click [here](#).

The next scheduled CON meeting is July 24, 2023, in Jefferson City, MO. To view the tentative agenda, please click [here](#). To view the compendium, please click [here](#). MHCA encourages you to periodically review the agenda, the compendium, and the proposed applications **IN ADVANCE** of the scheduled CON meetings to determine if there is anything that may be of concern to you.

The Missouri Health Facilities Review Committee (MHFRC) meets approximately every eight weeks, in Jefferson City, to consider applications and attend to administrative matters. Once per month, the MHFRC also considers expedited applications by way of a ballot vote conducted by mail, fax, and e-mail. To view the 2023 Meeting Calendar, please click [here](#). To view the 2023 Letter of Intent and Application Review Calendar, please click [here](#).

AHCA/NCAL & National News

AHCA/NCAL Named 2023 Top Washington-Area Workplace by Washington Post

AHCA/NCAL has been named one of The Washington Post's 2023 Top Workplaces in the Washington, D.C. area. Selection is based solely on employee feedback gathered through an anonymous third-party survey administered by research partner [Energage, LLC](#), which measured several aspects of workplace culture, including alignment, execution, and connection.

This is the seventh year AHCA/NCAL has received the Washington Post's Top Workplace recognition. This year's list honors 82 companies. The Washington Post hosted an awards ceremony on Thursday, June 15 to recognize the top-ranked companies. For more about The Washington Post's Top Workplaces and to see the full list of this year's honorees, visit [link](#).

Utilize the Benefits of the LTC Trend Tracker

[LTC Trend Tracker](#) is a data collection and benchmarking tool owned by AHCA/NCAL that is an exclusive member benefit. Please note that LTC Trend Tracker is free to NCAL members. [Register today](#) to begin using and receiving all the benefits that LTC Trend Tracker has to offer.

LTC Trend Tracker offers your organization:

- Data collection templates
- Customized report capabilities
- Customized dashboards to meet your needs
- Your AL Topline report

This information can be used to improve your performance in quality, resident care, and operations. Download the reports and supply the information to your administrators, boards, clinicians, and staff so they can see how your organization measures up to your peers.

Organizations who engage in and actively utilize LTC Trend Tracker also have the added benefit during the AHCA/NCAL National Quality Award program application process. LTC Trend Tracker is an approved comparative data source for organizations who are interested in applying for the AHCA/NCAL National Quality Award Program.

Podcast: Self-Care in Long Term Care – Integrating Self-Compassion into Daily Routines

AHCA/NCAL's Self-Care in Long Term Care podcast series continues. Launched this month, the [sixth podcast](#) focuses on self-compassion and how to integrate it into daily routines through mindfulness, humanity, and self-kindness. The Self-Care in Long Term Care podcast series is comprised of short listening sessions that help build our proverbial toolboxes to reduce stress, burnout, fatigue and increase our resiliency.

The [first podcast](#) focused on why self-care is important and explored the power of "the pause." The [second podcast](#) explored the power of movement and the 4-7-8 breathing technique. The [third podcast](#) explored the power of getting outside and gratitude. The [fourth podcast](#) focused on positivity in self-care and how implementing "good things for good change" can expand your mind's ability to recognize the positive events that happen every day and how they care improve your overall well-being. The [fifth podcast](#) focuses on self-compassion in preventing burnout, fatigue, and compassion fatigue.

You may access the entire podcast series through ahcancaLED [here](#). Podcasts are released each month, so stay tuned for more in this series.

AHCA/NCAL Data and Research

AHCA/NCAL develops and compiles cutting edge, comprehensive research and data concerning the long term and post-acute care sector. Whether conducted by AHCA/NCAL and prestigious research agencies or gathered from government agencies, AHCA/NCAL aims to provide a clear picture about the state of skilled nursing facilities. Please click [here](#) to view the COVID-19 Nursing Home Dashboard, SNF Occupancy Data and other Fast Facts.

AHCA/NCAL Reports, Notes and Members-Only Newsletters

Please click [here](#) to access AHCA/NCAL Annual Reports and Notes and to sign up for the Capitol Connection, a biweekly email that provides the latest updates and happenings on Capitol Hill and throughout Washington D.C.

Regulatory Updates

2023 Provider Feedback Survey

The Section for Long-Term Care Regulation is again seeking input from providers. They are asking for your help in identifying areas in their Section where excellent customer service is provided and areas where they need to focus on improving their customer service experience. Please take a couple minutes to complete their [2023 Provider Feedback Survey](#) by **July 5, 2023**.

Medicaid Spend-Down Limit Changes

Effective July 1, 2023, the Medicaid Resource (Spend-Down) Limit increased to \$5,726.00. Please click [here](#) for more information. If you have any questions, please contact Lynn Gilmore, Lead Auditor, at 573-508-4150.

IMPORTANT: For Medicaid/Medicare certified facilities, F569 states the facility must notify each resident/legal guardian that receives Medicaid benefits when the amount in the resident's account reaches \$200 less than the SSI resource limit. This means certified facilities should notify the resident/legal guardian when the resident's personal funds are \$5,526.00 or higher.

Missouri Regulation Change – Notice of Change of Contact Information and Missouri Administrator Employment

Missouri regulation - 19 CSR 73-2.130 Notice of Change of Contact Information and Missouri Administrator Employment – has been changed and is effective **June 30, 2023**. The rule change describes the conditions and procedures for reporting change of address. The new language states:

(1) Each administrator shall notify the board office of his/her current contact information within ten (10) calendar days of change for any of the following:

(A) Personal contact information, which shall include administrator license number, personal mailing address, email, and telephone number(s); and

(B) Missouri administrator employment, which shall include, administrator license number, facility name, mailing address, telephone number(s), and employment dates.

Please click [here](#) for a direct link to the Rules for the Missouri Board of Nursing Administrators. The rule referenced above is located on the last page.

Focus MDS Updates for June by AHCA

Since their release on April 3, 2023, [MDS 3.0 version v1.8.11v2 final item sets](#) and [draft RAI guidance](#) were updated and substantial changes were made to several sections. AHCA has been focusing on a different section each week in June to highlight changes that members need to know.

Changes to section A include:

- Incorporation of the Standardized Patient Assessment Data Elements (SPADES).
- Race, Ethnicity, and Preferred Language, which allows for standardized data collection across all health care settings.

- [Two new QRP Measures](#) which capture Transfer of Health (TOH) Information to the provider and to the patient, beginning on October 1, 2023, on all Part A PPS discharges.

AHCA has created an MDS Section A [resource document](#), which outlines key changes to the MDS Section A, Coding Instructions/RAI Guidelines for each item, and Actions to Consider for implementation across your facility.

Changes to section B include:

- Incorporation of the Standardized Patient Assessment Data Elements (SPADES).
- Health Literacy, which allows for standardized data collection across all health care settings.

AHCA has created an MDS Section B [resource document](#), which outlines key changes to the MDS Section B, Coding Instructions/RAI Guidelines for each item, and Actions to Consider for implementation across a facility.

Changes to section D include:

- Revision of the Patient Health Questionnaire (PHQ-9©) interview to the PHQ-2 to 9© interview. The PHQ-2 to 9© interview is a validated interview that screens for symptoms of depression and provides a standardized severity score and rating for evidence of a depressive disorder.
- Incorporation of the Standardized Patient Assessment Data Elements (SPADES) pertaining to isolation.

AHCA has created a [MDS Section D](#) resource document, which outlines key changes to MDS Section D, Coding Instructions/RAI Guidelines for each item, and Actions to Consider for implementation across your facility.

Changes to section GG include:

- Incorporation of four items from Section G (discontinued):
 - GG0115-Funtcional Limitation in Range of Motion
 - GG0120 Mobility Devices
 - GG0130I Personal Hygiene
 - GG0170FF Tub/Shower Transfer
- Revision of coding definitions for GG0100:
 - Updated coding definitions for *Independent* and *Dependent* to clarify that either the resident or the helper completed all the activities as well as updated the definition for *Need Some Help* to clarify that help was needed to complete any activities.
- Expansion of GG0130 and GG0170 to allow for data collection on all assessments:
 - Admission, quarterly, PPS, discharge, IPA, and Part A PPS discharges.

AHCA has created an [MDS Section GG](#) resource document, which outlines key changes to MDS Section GG, Coding Instructions/RAI Guidelines for each item, and Actions to Consider for implementation across your facility.

Please note: It is important to develop a training plan for your facility to ensure all staff impacted by the changes are trained in them. Please email regulatory@ahca.org with any questions.

Additional Resources:

- [AHCA Education: MDS Updates Effective 10/1/2023](#)
- [Skilled Nursing Facility \(SNF\) Quality Reporting Program \(QRP\) Training](#)
- [SNF Understanding Changes to the MDS 3.0 RAI Manual v1.18.11 Training Webinar](#)
- [SNF Social Determinants of Health and New Data Elements in Section A Training Webinar](#)
- [SNF Section D: Resident Mood Interview and Total Severity Score Training Webinar](#)
- [SNF Section GG: Summary of Guidance Changes](#)
- [Coding GG0170C. Lying to Sitting on Side of Bed](#)
- [2023 SNF Guidance Training Program](#)

AHCA Adds Several New Resources to [ahcancaLED](#) and Survey Preparedness Page

AHCA recently added several new resources to [ahcancaLED](#) and AHCA's [Survey Preparedness page](#). Each of the newly added resources were developed to assist members in areas that have either been identified as focus areas by CMS or they have been identified as areas that deficiencies are being given more frequently throughout the nation. A description to each of the resources is listed below.

New Resources on [ahcancaLED](#)

- [Behavioral Health](#) – This two-part webinar covers regulations, definitions, and guidance surrounding Behavioral Health regulations and caring for those with mental disorders or substance use disorders (SUD). The webinar also covers real-life case study examples related to caring for those with mental disorders and SUD. Finally, the first part of the webinar covers how to recognize operational changes needed to meet updated guidance and regulatory requirements. The second portion of the webinar covers different behavioral health diagnoses, treatment for different diagnoses, how person-centered care is applied, understanding the use of behavioral health contracts, and how to apply F689 (Accidents and Incidents) to SUD.
- [IDR/IIDR](#) – A sub-group of the Survey Regulatory Committee developed the webinar and toolkit titled “Informal Dispute Resolution” (IDR). Both the webinar and the toolkit were developed to assist facilities in determining if an IDR is an appropriate tool to use after survey where the results need to be disputed by the facility. Additionally, the webinar assists facilities through the process of completing an IDR and informs learners about areas that may vary based on state processes. The IDR process is not one providers do often so this course is a helpful aid in completing a task that can sometimes seem confusing and intimidating.
- [Discharges](#) – “Discharges- Making the Safest Transition for Your Residents” is a webinar was created by AHCA Regulatory staff to assist facility staff in understanding regulations related to planning, preparing, and discharging residents safely. It provides real-life scenarios of difficult discharge situations, and how to stay in compliance when these situations arise.
- [Abuse, Neglect, Misappropriation](#) – This three-part webinar reviews regulations related to abuse, neglect, and misappropriation of resident property, how and when to report abuse, how to complete an abuse investigation, and helpful tips for achieving past noncompliance (PNC) for these deficiencies. The webinars also include real life scenarios, how to avoid deficiencies in these scenarios, and tools for achieving PNC.
- [Schizophrenia Audit and FAQ](#) – Located on [ahcancaLED](#) is an FAQ related to the recently initiated Schizophrenia audits being completed by CMS. The FAQ covers many questions regarding the audits, the information requested during the audits, and how quality measures and overall star ratings would be affected if facilities failed or decided to forgo the audit. There is also an audit form included for facilities to self-audit residents with a schizophrenia diagnosis.
- [ERSD Tip Sheet](#) – This tip sheet assists facilities that complete in-house dialysis. The tip sheet walks providers through the survey process, policies, and procedures they should have, qualifications and training, coordination of care, and provides resources with more information on the topic.

Tools on the AHCA Survey Preparedness Page

- [QCOR Tip Sheet](#) and [Webinar](#) – A webinar was added to the Survey Preparedness page recently to assist in understanding how to use QCOR. A tip sheet with step-by-step instructions on how to use the website is also included. QCOR is a helpful website for providers and state affiliates alike to understand trends in citations, scope and severity or recently cited deficiencies, and statistics on when facilities were most recently surveyed.

- [CMP Analytical Tool Tip Sheet](#) and [Webinar](#) – A webinar was added to the Survey Preparedness page recently to assist in understanding how to use the CMP Analytical Tool on QCOR. Also included is a tip sheet with step-by-step instructions on how to use the tool. The CMP analytical tools is a helpful tool for providers to use when predicting what their CMP will be after a recent survey.
- [NHSN Tip Sheet](#) – This tip sheet provides guidance on NHSN reporting for facilities and tips to ensure compliance with F884 (reporting to the NHSN). The tip sheet also provides a link to the CDC modules for additional training.
- [NATCEP Ban Waiver Tip Sheet](#) – This tip sheet helps providers complete the Ban Waiver Request Form for the Nurse Aide Training and Competency Evaluation Program. A [request form](#) is also included on the site.

If you have questions or difficulty accessing any of these resources, please email regulatory@ahca.org.

CMS Creates a SNF 5-Claim Probe and Educate Review Webpage

CMS [recently announced](#) the start of the SNF 5-Claim Probe and Educate Review program. As part of the effort to lower the SNF improper payment rate, Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs) will be reviewing a small number of claims for every Medicare-billing SNF in the country. The SNF will then be offered education to address any errors identified, helping them to avoid future claim denials and adjustments.

A [new CMS webpage](#) provides background information, Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) and links to additional resources.

The 5-claim review strategy is like the current [Targeted Probe and Educate \(TPE\)](#) medical review strategy, in that it will include one on one provider education at the completion of a small sample of claim reviews. However, instead of the 1-3 rounds of review a provider receives through TPE, each SNF will undergo only 1 round of review as follows:

- MACS will review 5 claims from each SNF.
- MACs will complete one (1) round of probe and educate for each SNF.
- Education offered will be individualized based on the claim review errors identified in the probe. Review results letters will detail the denial rationales for each claim, as appropriate.

The SNF 5-Claim review process began on June 5, 2023, will be issued in waves over the next year, and will affect claims for services furnished after October 1, 2019. Claims containing the COVID-19 diagnosis will be excluded from the review. SNFs that are currently undergoing TPE will continue in that program and not the 5-Claim review. Also, SNFs that have recently undergone and passed TPE will not qualify for the SNF 5-Claim Review for one year from the date that they were released from TPE review.

CMS Releases Additional Medicaid Unwinding Materials & HHS Releases Letter on Medicaid Redeterminations

On June 12, CMS announced the release of additional materials related to Medicaid unwinding, including strategies states may use to help Medicaid enrollees' complete renewals or connect to other coverage, as appropriate. At the same time, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) [released](#) a letter to the nation's governors urging them to adopt policies that help individuals and families keep their health coverage.

Links to additional resources are included below that summarize strategies states may use to help Medicaid enrollees with renewals, and that include outreach and communication tools for states and partners in the public and private sectors to provide beneficiaries with information about the Medicaid unwinding process.

These efforts reflect an all-hands-on-deck approach that reinforces the need for help from every state, private sector, and community partner to spread the word about Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) renewals and to help people keep the coverage for which they are eligible. These materials will be updated periodically.

- [Secretary Becerra's Letter to Governors on Medicaid Redeterminations](#)
- [Strategies to Prevent Procedural Terminations](#)
- [All Hands on Deck Unwinding Update](#)
- [All Hands on Deck Partner Call to Action](#)
- [Unwinding Strategies States are Using](#)

CMS Releases QSO on Information Sharing During Hospital Transfer to Post Acute Care

CMS released a [QSO](#) reminding state survey agencies of the requirement for hospitals to provide accurate and complete patient information to Post Acute Care (PAC) providers during discharge. CMS identified a concern regarding the information PAC providers, including skilled nursing facilities and home health agencies, receive from hospitals, including the following important patient information:

- Information regarding substance use disorders and mental health diagnoses or histories.
- A full list of medications for discharge.
- Information about skin conditions, including skin tears, pressure injuries, etc.
- Information regarding durable medical equipment.
- Information regarding the patient's preferences for care, including end-of-life decisions.
- Communications about the patient's needs at home.

New GAO Report on Care Compare

A [new GAO report](#) entitled ***Nursing Homes: CMS Offers Useful Information on Website and Is Considering Additional Steps to Assess Underlying Data*** has been released. As you know, CMS provides information on the quality of nursing homes as part of its Care Compare tool. CMS has worked to ensure that nursing home information on Care Compare is useful to consumers and lets them compare data among nursing homes, such as how many nurses a facility has on staff.

However, the GAO report found that Care Compare could be improved because some of the information is not always updated regularly. In fact, the report found some information that was more than 2 years old. The GAO report provides recommendations to help CMS improve the overall usefulness of the website.

Corporate Compliance Programs – Recent DOJ Changes

During speeches at the American Bar Association (ABA) National Institute on White Collar Crime, Deputy Attorney General Lisa Monaco, and other officials of the federal government, announced significant changes to the DOJ Evaluation of Corporate Compliance Programs. They also continued to emphasize the importance of effective and robust compliance policies. And they announced a Pilot Program on Compensation incentives and Claw Backs requiring companies to “develop compliance promoting criteria within its compensation and bonus systems.”

In evaluating a company's compliance policies relating to identifying, reporting, investigating, and remediating potential misconduct, prosecutors should now consider a company's policies and procedures relating to messaging applications (including third-party encrypted messaging applications), ephemeral messages, other communication platforms and the use of personal devices. The intent is to require companies to adopt policies to preserve and produce these messages when investigated.

The DOJ now considers corporate criminal enforcement to be a national security concern, even stating that sanctions enforcement “is the new [Foreign Corrupt Practices Act] FCPA”.

With respect to the Pilot Program, the DOJ is suggesting the following: (1) A prohibition on bonuses for employees who do not satisfy compliance performance requirements; (2) Disciplinary measures for employees who violate applicable law and others who meet the following conditions: (a) had supervisory authority over employees or business areas engaged in misconduct; and (b) knew of, or were willfully blind, to the misconduct; and (3) incentives for employees who demonstrate full commitment to compliance processes.

The Criminal Division of the DOJ, in the resolution of criminal cases, will offer reductions in fines to companies that seek to claw back compensation for employees who engage in misconduct related to the conduct under investigation, had supervisory authority over the employees or a business engaged in the misconduct, or were willfully blind to the misconduct. Criminal fines will especially be reduced in situations where the claw backs began before negotiations occurred to resolve the criminal case. It can be expected that substantial additional resources will be funneled to this effort by the Biden Administration.

Companies assessing their compliance programs in light of these most recent announcements should consider the following:

- Examining compensation models throughout the organization, including whether adjustments to those policies and/or employment agreements are needed;
- (2) Reviewing policies addressing the use of personal devices or messaging applications, including text messaging, for business communication that may occur outside of the formal company-provided and monitored communication methods;
- (3) Reviewing and revising document retention and preservation policies, including understanding the current technology used by employees to conduct business and ensuring that companies have a means to access and preserve such communications;
- (4) Focusing on sanctions and export controls, even where such issues would not traditionally affect the company;
- (5) Ensuring that current programs help proactively identify and investigate wrongdoings so the business can take advantage of the benefits of self-disclosure where appropriate; and
- (6) Developing policies and procedures on how to quickly engage the right people in discussions to determine whether self-disclosure is appropriate, including compliance officers and committees, legal counsel, and the board of directors of the organization.

Provider Use of 1099 Contractors

The United States Department of Labor (DOL) is scrutinizing the use of 1099 contractors to see if they should be salaried and hired as W-2 employees. In January of this year alone, the DOL announced nine settlements against health care sites and/or staffing agencies as a result of overtime violations. Five of those settlements involved nurses who were misclassified as 1099 contractors. This represents only a small percentage of the settlements the Department has obtained from enforcement of violations of the Fair Labor Standards Act.

Federal minimum wage and overtime requirements do not apply to 1099 contractors, hence the push to classify individuals as working in that category. The DOL is taking the position that staffing agencies, especially platforms used by workers seeking potential employment, misclassify their workers as 1099 independent contractors, instead of W-2 employees.

Given the fact that health care is so highly regulated in nursing homes, even more so than for other health care providers, it makes it difficult to argue that a worker is a 1099 contractor as opposed to a W-2 worker. Interestingly, the DOL has not sued the staffing agencies themselves, but instead takes the position that the entity for which the staffing agency person is working is the "employer."

While Missouri's new law regulating staffing agencies corrects a number of these problems, facilities are cautioned to understand that they are potential targets of Department of Labor audits and need to scrutinize their entire work force, not necessarily direct care workers, to make sure that they are properly classified.

2023 SLCR Annual Provider Meetings - Dates & Locations

September 6, 2023: Region 7

Location: Crowne Plaza St. Louis Airport, Bridgeton

September 7, 2023: Region 2

Location: Drury Plaza Hotel & Convention Center, Cape Girardeau

September 13, 2023: Region 1

Location: Oasis Hotel & Convention Center, Springfield

September 14, 2023: Region 6

Location: Special Olympics Missouri, Jefferson City

September 27, 2023: Region 5

Location: Moberly Municipal Auditorium, Moberly

October 4, 2023: Region 4

Location: Stoney Creek Hotel, St. Joseph

October 5, 2023: Region 3

Location: Adams Pointe Conference Center, Blue Springs

Health Education Unit Updates

The DHSS Health Education Unit is conducting Weekly Instructor Info Webinars/Q&A Meetups. These sessions will be held the same day and time each week - **every Tuesday at 2:00 pm**. Click this [link](#) to join these weekly meetings. If you have questions, call the Health Education Unit at 573-526-5686.

The HEU and Headmaster met with their Test Advisory Panel in March to address some changes in the skills test and knowledge test. These changes will be effective on July 1, 2023, so please check the Missouri Headmaster Website for the most recent version of the Candidate Handbook.

CNA Testing Events

All Regional dates are viewable on the online calendar at <https://mo.tmutest.com/calendar>. To help with scheduling your testing event, contact Headmaster a few days after the CNA course starts. **IMPORTANT** – these are not the only test sites available. If you need a different testing location, please call Headmaster D&S (1-800-393-8664) and ask for the Missouri Team.

Update on Employee Background Checks Conducted by the MO Highway Patrol

As you know, Missouri law (Section 192.2495, RSMo) requires long term care facilities to conduct a criminal background check from the Missouri Highway Patrol, along with a check of the DHSS Employee Disqualification List (EDL), on all employees prior to having direct contact with residents.

One of MHCA's member services is to conduct criminal background checks through the Missouri State Highway Patrol in a quick and efficient manner, with a 24-hour turnaround time. However, for checks that have an initial message of "pending/processing", it would take the Highway Patrol around 7 to 10 days to complete these checks. **PLEASE NOTE: The Highway Patrol has now informed MHCA that for checks that come back "pending/processing", the turnaround time is now 10 to 14 days.**

And please remember that §192.2495, RSMo, requires facilities to request a criminal background check prior to having direct contact with residents. This means that Missouri law does allow facilities to let their new employees begin their jobs while their background check is still pending.

Updated List of Excluded Individuals and Entities (LEIE) Database File

The Office of Inspector General (OIG) has released its updated List of Excluded Individuals and Entities (LEIE) database file, which reflects all OIG exclusions and reinstatement actions up to, and including, those taken in May 2023. This new file replaces the updated LEIE database file available for download last month. Individuals and entities that have been reinstated to the federal health care programs are not included in this file.

The updated files are posted on OIG's website [here](#). Healthcare providers have an "affirmative duty" to check to ensure that excluded individuals are not working in their facilities or face significant fines. As a best practice, long term care providers should check the LEIE on a regular basis.

Workforce Shortage - Utilizing MO Division of Developmental Disabilities and Nexus to Fill Shortages in Non-Clinical Positions

MHCA and the other long-term care associations participated in a call with the SLCR, the MO Division of Developmental Disabilities, and Nexus to discuss utilizing persons with barriers to employment to fill non-clinical jobs in long-term care facilities. There is a lot of opportunity out there for both the employees and providers. If you are interested in learning more, please click on the following links:

- [MO Division of Developmental Disabilities](#) - On this webpage, there is a tab "Where can I find Employment service providers?" and within this tab, there is a listing by region of contract employment providers who assist to connect participants with businesses seeking talent.
- Nexus – To learn more about this organization, please see their [brochure](#), [business flier](#), and [territory map](#).

Quality, Programs and Resources

MHCA Silver and Bronze Quality Award Winners

Recently, AHCA/NCAL announced the Bronze and Silver Quality Award winners, and we are thrilled to celebrate our members' achievements!

Butterfield Residential Care Center and **Citizens Memorial Healthcare Facility** have been awarded the **2023 Silver – Achievement in Quality Award**.

Brooke Haven Healthcare, Community Springs Healthcare Facility, Lake Stockton Healthcare Facility, NHC Healthcare Maryland Heights, NHC Healthcare Desloge, NHC Healthcare Kennett, and The Villages of Jackson Creek have received the **2023 Bronze – Commitment to Quality Award**.

Implemented by AHCA/NCAL in 1996, the [National Quality Award Program](#) is centered on the core values and criteria of the Baldrige Performance Excellence Program. The program assists providers of long term and post -acute care services in achieving their performance excellence goals. The program has three progressive levels: Bronze, Silver, and Gold.

Providers begin the quality improvement process at the Bronze level, where they develop an organizational profile with essential performance elements and demonstrate their ability to implement a performance improvement system. At the Silver level, members develop and demonstrate effective approaches that help improve performance and health care outcomes. Recipients of the Silver – Achievement in Quality Award may now move forward in developing approaches and achieving performance levels that meet the criteria required for the Gold - Excellence in Quality Award. Gold award recipients will be announced later this summer.

These are very prestigious awards, and we applaud these members for their commitment, dedication and focus on quality which enriches the lives of those they serve in long term care. Congratulations!

National Quality Award 2024 Program Dates

The National Quality Award Program is a rigorous three-level process that evaluates an organization's capabilities against nationally recognized standards for excellence. The program provides a pathway to improved outcomes in areas including care, workforce, leadership, and operations.

Long term care providers know that by focusing on quality care they can change the lives of others. AHCA/NCAL encourages all members to consider joining or continuing your quality care journey through the National Quality Award program in 2024.

Why Apply for a National Quality Award?

Participating in this prestigious program allows facilities to assess and enhance their overall quality of care, operations, and outcomes. By engaging in a comprehensive evaluation process, facilities gain valuable insights into their strengths and areas for improvement, ultimately leading to better resident experiences and improved healthcare delivery.

Additional benefits include:

- New perspectives and insights on your care operations
- Opportunities to advance and improve
- Team building and team training
- More resilient operations that are prepared for change
- Results that can be reflected in both statistics and culture
- Recognition and pride

Save these dates and plan NOW for the 2024 program!

- June 27, 2023 – Applications/criteria video series available
- August 2023 – Application portal/Intent to Apply (ITA) opens
- November 16, 2023 – ITA deadline
- January 25, 2024 – Application deadline
- Summer 2024 – Bronze, Silver, and Gold Notifications

For any questions, please email the National Quality Award team at qualityaward@ahca.org. And visit the ahcancal.org/QualityAward website for more information.

QAPI Resources from AHCA

AHCA/NCAL has some Quality Assurance and Performance Improvement (QAPI) tools and resources to help you boost and maximize your QAPI team's efforts. The new tools include:

- QM Drilldown Quick Reference Tool Rehospitalization
- QM Drilldown Quick Reference Tool Pressure Sores
- QM Drilldown Quick Reference Tool Antipsychotic Medication
- QM Drilldown Quick Reference Tool Falls
- QAPI Sustainability Plan
- QAPI Meeting Agenda Template
- QAPI Meeting Minutes Template
- Key Performance Indicators 101

The meeting templates and drilldown tools are a must-have. QAPI agenda and minutes templates were generated to assist you in developing an effective method to organize and record QAPI meetings. These

templates are intended to be personalized and tailored to reflect your facilities priorities. The QAPI Sustainability Plan is a resource that providers can utilize to evaluate their current QAPI plan to identify and address gaps. The four Quality Measure Drilldown tools were developed to help providers examine which factors negatively impact falls, antipsychotic medication, pressure sores, and rehospitalizations. And finally, you can complete a Key Performance Indicators 101 webinar at your own pace. This webinar will help you define and select Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), choose appropriate comparative data, collect and analyze data, and provide guidance on using KPIs in a QAPI program.

All these resources can be found on the [ahcancalED](#) website.

Center of Excellence Releases New Trainings in June

The [Center of Excellence in Behavioral Health in Nursing Facilities](#) (COE-NF) released new trainings for the month of June. In addition to the resources and June trainings listed below, the COE-NF continues to provide [tailored technical assistance](#), such as an individualized plan to assist your facility with specific behavioral health needs to include training as needed.

The COE-NF has a multitude of [resources](#) available on the following topics: Co-occurring disorders (COD), De-escalation, General, Mental illness, Regulations, Substance use disorder (SUD), and Trauma informed care. New resources include:

- [Naloxone in Nursing Homes: A Checklist for Process Review](#)
- [Naloxone in Nursing Facilities: How it Saves Lives](#)
- [Using Naloxone to Respond to an Overdose in a Nursing Facility](#)

QIPMO

QIPMO has a [dedicated website](#) with important information and helpful links on COVID-19 and how to prevent the spread in nursing homes. Your QIPMO nurses and LTC Leadership Coaches are always available to help and guide you with any questions or concerns you may have. Their contact information is available [here](#). Provided below is some resources and services from QIPMO that can benefit your facility in maintaining and enhancing your infection prevention and control processes:

- [Infection Control Manual](#)
- [Infection Preventionist Zip Kit](#)

Enhanced Leadership Development Academy for LTC Leaders

Do you.....

- need a leadership course that addresses the unique challenges SNF leaders face?
- want to feel inspired and passionate about leading your SNF?
- want to connect with other SNF leaders and have access to free professional development, tools, and resources?
- want free CE credit without sacrificing quality and practical application?
- want to have the flexibility to learn at the pace and place that works best for you?

If you answer YES to any of these questions, this course may be for YOU! Open to RNs, NHAs and LPNs! For more information visit this [website](#), download the [postcard](#) or contact Todd Winterbower at winterbower@missouri.edu. Please take the [survey](#) now to see if you qualify for FREE registration.

Show-Me ECHO Videoconferences

Show-Me ECHO (Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes) uses videoconferencing to connect interdisciplinary teams of experts with clinicians and other healthcare professionals where they collaborate in interactive, individualized, case-based learning environments to develop skills and discuss best practices. Show-Me ECHO learning sessions offer free continuing education and are provided at *no cost* to participating sites and individuals.

[PAC/LTC: Post-Acute & Long-Term Care](#) - 2nd & 4th Thursdays: 9:30 am - 10:30 am

- Post-Vaccination Practices: Including Visitation Policies and PPE practices
- Ongoing COVID-19 Identification and Treatment: Plans for Recognizing Patients with COVID, Post-COVID Syndromes, Testing, Treatment and Cohorting
- Emotional and Organizational Support for Staff
- Vaccinations: Vaccine Confidence, Testing, Logistics, Ongoing Compliance and Complications
- Addressing and Supporting Needs of Residents, Families or Care Partners: Isolation and Family Communication
- Stopping the Spread (Infection Control): Building Sustainable Infection Control Practices
- Leadership Communication for COVID-19: Huddles, Rounding, Etc.
- Leadership Behaviors to Support Teams During COVID-19: Teamwork, Roles and Psychological Safety

HQIN Assistance

Health Quality Innovators (HQI) serves as the CMS-designated Quality Improvement Organization (QIO) for Missouri. Facilities throughout the state partner with the Health Quality Innovation Network (HQIN) on various projects to improve operational processes and clinical outcomes.

Based on lessons learned throughout the pandemic, HQIN is offering a no-cost virtual review of participating nursing homes' emergency preparedness plans with a focus on integration of infection control and prevention. This support is intended to enhance emergency response and survey readiness. CMS has instructed the QIOs to do these reviews due to the [White House 21-point nursing home plan](#) that was unveiled earlier this year. An HQIN representative will contact you to schedule a review or you may request a review by emailing LTC@hqi.solutions.

HQIN is funded by CMS to deliver no-cost education, resources, and technical assistance to nursing homes through the Quality Innovation Network - Quality Improvement Organization (QIN-QIO) Program, a role formerly held by Primaris. HQIN's team of nursing home experts will help you create an action plan to establish a strong infection control and surveillance plan so you can comply with new CMS requirements and ensure the safety of your residents and staff. To learn more about HQI and HQIN, visit www.hqin.org or contact Judy Carte, jcarte@hqi.solutions.

Assisted Living Update

National Assisted Living Week 2023 is Quickly Approaching



Established by NCAL in 1995, National Assisted Living Week (NALW) will take place from September 10-16, 2023. This year's theme, "Season of Reflection", honors the individuals who reside, work, and volunteer in assisted living and residential care communities with special activities and events. Gerald Hamilton, Chair at NCAL, has a few words of encouragement in this [short video message](#) to help you get started.

The [2023 NALW Planning Guide](#) is now available. It provides suggested activities and ideas to celebrate the week in a safe and meaningful way.

Additional [NALW resources](#) are also available and they include the promotional toolkit to help you share your celebrations with the media and your community, as well as NALW graphics and logos. You can also [explore the wide selection](#) of exclusive NALW decorations, t-shirts, and gifts.

“Season of Reflection” Revealed as Theme for National Assisted Living Week 2023

Established by NCAL in 1995, the national celebration will take place from September 10-16, 2023. National Assisted Living Week (NALW) provides a unique opportunity for residents, their loved ones, staff, volunteers, and local communities to celebrate the individuals who live and work in assisted living and learn more about this sector of long-term care.

“Season of Reflection” encourages assisted living communities around the country to host a variety of events that honor the individuals who reside, work, and volunteer in these communities while adhering to infection control requirements and precautions. The “Season of Reflection” logo is available for download to assisted living communities, stakeholders, and members of the public on the NALW website. In the coming months, NCAL will issue a planning guide and products centered on ways to celebrate “Season of Reflection.” Participants are asked to share their celebrations throughout the week on social media with the hashtag #NALW. Visit www.nalw.org for updated information and resources.

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funding Opportunity for RCFs and ALFs

Beginning September 1, 2022, operators can apply for reimbursement for expenses incurred between April 1, 2021 and March 31, 2022, directly related to preparing, preventing, and responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. If you operated a residential care facility or assisted living facility licensed with DHSS between April 1, 2021 and March 31, 2022, you are eligible for reimbursement for allowable expenses.

Before operators can complete an application for reimbursement:

1. Operators **must** be registered as a vendor with the State of Missouri and **must** have provided their Federal Employer ID Number (FEIN) to DHSS.
 - a. If not already registered, complete the Vendor Input Form located [here](#). Completed forms must be sent to the Office of Administration by fax at 573-526-9813 or by mail to PO Box 809, Jefferson City, MO 65102.
 - b. The address used in registering as a vendor must be the same address used on the reimbursement application. Be sure to register only the operating entity and not all individual facilities owned by the same company.
 - c. Email registered name and FEIN to LTCARPAReimbursements@health.mo.gov

For your convenience, here are links to [Frequently Asked Questions](#) and an [Application Checklist](#) you will find in this communication. These documents can also be found online at <https://moarpa.mo.gov/required-forms-program-application-instructions/> under Operators of Residential Care / Assisted Living Facilities. Funding for this initiative has been made available through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). Missouri’s ARPA funding opportunities are located [here](#).

Membership Updates & Services

July 2023 - Employee Recognition Program

In the month of July, MHCA will recognize **Medical Records Personnel**. To request certificates for your personnel, please click [here](#) and login to your member account to fill out the online form. Or if you have the ability to print color certificates, click [here](#) to fill in names and print directly at your facility. This is a members only service, so please sign in to view/print the certificates.

Career Opportunities In Long-Term Care

Looking for a new challenge or position? Click the position title below to view the job opening opportunity. To place an ad with us, login to your MHCA account or email [Teresa Baysinger](mailto:Teresa.Baysinger), Accounts Manager.

Centenarian Club

If you have a resident turning 100 or older, we would love to welcome them to the MHCA Centenarian Club. We will feature the resident in our monthly newsletter and here on our website. Centenarians receive a Member Certificate to the Club and a bouquet of flowers. On their birthday each year thereafter, MHCA sends the Centenarian a birthday greeting. Simply complete and submit the Centenarian Club [application](#), or contact [Tina Struempf](#) for more information.

75th Annual Convention & Trade Show Updates

Facility Registration Open!

MHCA is excited to announce that registration is now open for the upcoming 75th Annual Convention! This event will be held August 27-30, 2023 at the Branson Convention Center, located adjacent to the Branson Landing!

Each day offers a wide range of education to meet the needs of your entire staff, time to learn about the latest products and innovations in long-term care, and time to reconnect with colleagues, peers and friends! A proposed agenda can be found below and session details will be provided soon. Click [here](#) for the proposed schedule or click [here](#) to register online today!

Exhibit Booths are Going Fast! - Reserve Your Booth Today!

Become an exhibitor and join us in our “*Celebrating 75 Years of Caring*” themed Trade Show in Branson, MO! The MHCA Trade Show is widely regarded as the leading long-term care trade show in Missouri, held by the largest Long-Term Care association in the state. This event has enjoyed consistently high attendance by over 200 facilities and 1,000 attendees consisting of administrators, decision makers, prospective buyers, and those exhibiting. Click [here](#) for more information and to register. If you have any questions regarding exhibiting or sponsoring, please contact [Michelle Walters](#), Director of Education, Meetings, and Events.

Don't Wait - Book Your Hotel Rooms Now

The 75th Annual MHCA Convention & Trade Show will be held August 27-30, 2023 at the Branson Convention Center in Branson, MO. Make plans to help us celebrate our 75 Years of Caring for the Long-Term Care industry! Information on the Trade Show will be sent out in the coming weeks.

Book your hotel rooms now - rooms sell out fast!

Call 866-442-0959 to make a room reservation at either the Hilton Branson Convention Center or Hilton Promenade (*across the street from the convention center*) and let them know you are with the Missouri Health Care Association to receive the discounted rate of \$149 a night*.

**Always watch when making your reservations and make sure you are using the correct phone number or the Hilton website; scammers are everywhere that will charge you extra!*

MHCA Marketing & Sponsorship Opportunities

A great way to become a recognized name in the Missouri long-term care community is to partner with the Missouri Health Care Association. The value of becoming a MHCA Sponsor allows your marketing dollars to stretch further than ever before! There are various packages and sponsorship levels to choose from, designed to suit each individual need and budget. Download the complete [2023 Marketing & Sponsorship Guide](#) for details.

2023 MHCA SPONSORS!

Thank you to the following 2023 MHCA Sponsors! Your continued support of MHCA helps ensure we are bringing the very best in education and annual events to the Membership.

DIAMOND SPONSORS



PLATINUM SPONSORS



GOLD SPONSORS



SILVER SPONSORS



AssuredPartners



BRONZE SPONSORS



Martin Bros. DISTRIBUTING CO INC



LUMENT



Interested in becoming a sponsor and see your logo placed here? It's easy! Click [here](#) to view the Marketing & Sponsorship Guide. If you have questions, contact [Michelle Walters](#), Director of Education & Events.

Education Sessions, Meetings & Events

Workshops & Seminars - In-Seat

[Medicare from Start to Finish](#)

July 12 | MHCA Office | Jefferson City

[RAI Process from Start to Finish](#)

August 8-9 | Courtyard by Marriott | Jefferson City

Live Webinars and Webinar Recordings

[Restorative Nursing Excellence: Revitalizing Programs & Restoring Function After COVID-19](#)

6-Week Webinar Series beginning June 22, 2023

Online and Virtual Workshops

Online Train the Trainer Workshop, Clinical Supervisor, C.N.A. Student Training and more can be found at: <https://www.staffdevelopmentsolutions.com/eb-courses/>

[Online Activity Director Workshop](#) & [Online Social Service Designee Workshop](#). Both courses are held on a monthly basis. Next courses are July 5 - August 1, 2023.

Need CEUs fast? Earn Missouri-approved [online CEUs](#) from dozens of available courses the same day!

MHCA is proud to partner with [CEUSrEZ](#) to provide our membership with discounted online CEU! Use Promocode MHCA2023 for 20% off!

[NAB Preceptor Training](#) - This online training program for Preceptors is divided into four unique modules of education. Preceptors will be able to earn NAB-approved continuing education (CE) for completion of each of the modules below and successfully passing the post-test. Each module will be worth 1.25 NAB-Approved CEs.

AHCA/NCAL Webinars - Online Training

- [Building Trust: A Strategy to Improve Patient Safety, Staff Wellbeing & Vaccine Uptake in Long Term Care](#) Free Four-Lesson Virtual Program
- [Infection Preventionist Specialized Training - IPCO Version 2](#) - Online, Self-Study Program
- [Using UV-C Disinfection to Advance Environmental Safety in Healthcare](#) - On-Demand Webinar
- [Creating Inclusive Communities for LGBTQI and HIV+ Older Adults](#) - Online Training
- [PHI Coaching Supervision](#) - Online Training
- [Grief, Trauma & the Impact of COVID-19 on Residents and Staff](#) - Webinar Series
- [Functional Outcomes Improvement](#) - Online Training