Message From the President

Facility Members & Business Partners,

I hope you are finding a way to enjoy, or at least survive, this hot stretch of late summer!! For some people this hot time of year is their favorite and for others it is their least favorite. For that second group, let me point out some reasons to find enjoyment in August. To name just a few reasons, August 3rd is National Watermelon Day and the second week of August is National Smile Week. Now who doesn't like watermelon and smiles?!? It's also that last stretch before school resumes and we celebrate the association's largest event of the year, our annual convention.

The MO HealthNet, in conjunction with the DHSS, is working hard to finalize our January 1st, 2023 Medicaid rates and provide us our July 1st, 2023 rates as well. More details are provided in this newsletter. Please know that the MHCA has been both applying the necessary pressure on the state to move this process along as well as offering whatever assistance the MHCA can offer. Although frustrating for understandable reasons, we do believe they are working as quickly as they can and they have been very collaborative with the MHCA during this process. They also continue to be receptive to the idea of another rebase next year. We are a long way away from that being official, but the MHCA continues to lay the groundwork for this next rebase which would be a huge boost for SNF Medicaid providers given the increases in cost over the past couple of years.

As mentioned above, Nikki, our contract lobbyists, and the entire MHCA team continue working hard for us during the summer months. They've spent time with legislators in their districts, hosted facility visits with legislators, and have a seat at the table with the state on important topics like those noted above and many others. Know that despite the hot weather they are out there hard at work!!

We are just a few weeks away from the Missouri Health Care Association's 75th annual convention and trade show. We are hoping for a great turnout for the event as we have many great education topics with a line-up that will provide both our SNF and our ALF/RCF providers with some wonderful education sessions and much needed CEUs throughout our annual convention. In addition, I would be remised if I didn't mention the great networking opportunities and camaraderie gained from this important event as well. I look forward to seeing you all in Branson!

Sincerely,

Eric Doerhoff
MHCA President 2022-2023

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

CALENDAR OF EVENTS click here

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MHCA
Missouri Health Care Association

Reimbursement and Budget Updates

Status of January 1, 2023 Final Rate Letters

The state continues to make progress toward finalizing the January 1, 2023 rate letters. The state reported to us this week that they have worked through the internal/ITSD approvals necessary for the two agencies (DHSS – which houses the MDS data and MO HealthNet who calculates and processes the payment) to share the MDS data amongst themselves. The state estimates it will be able to calculate the January 1, 2023, rate adjustments and send out the final rate letters **no later than August 21, 2023**.

As soon as we have additional information and a clearer timeline of when to expect the release of the January 1, 2023 final rate letters, we will let you know. We will continue our weekly communication with the state on this issue and report to you as we learn more.

Legislative Update

Governor Begins Taking Action on Legislation Passed During 2023 Legislative Session

The Governor has signed all but one bill passed into law. The bill that was vetoed was SB 189 which dealt with public safety. These bills signed into law include provisions MHCA testified in support of due to the intent of the legislation to alleviate the health care workforce crisis. These include the following provisions:

- 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.

The legislation signed into law will go into effect on August 28th. To see a full list of bills passed, please click here to see the report put together by our advocacy partners, Gamble and Schlemeier.

Legislative Tours

PLEASE consider hosting your legislators for a tour of 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 they 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.

Advocacy Highlight

Ash Grove Healthcare Facility

Pictured from Left to Right: Shelly Barlean – Office Manager; Cassandra O'Connor – Assistant Director of Nursing; Roxanne Wagner – Activities Director; Lyle Smith – Maintenance Director; Stephanie Aldridge – MDS Coordinator; Jenee Craig – Dietary Manager; Shan Evans – Social Service Designee; Lynette Green – Director of Nursing
LeeAnn Collins – Environmental Service Supervisor; Joshua Solomon – Administrator; Senator Curtis Trent – Senator for Missouri's 20th District

In the front row is the Ash Grove Resident Council President: Sharon Highfill

Senator Trent visited the Ash Grove Healthcare Facility after meeting with Administrator Josh Solomon at the MHCA Mid Year Advocacy Day. The Senator was able to see the weekly karaoke performance as well as tour the facility. The leadership at the facility as well as residents shared how special the facility is in their community and Senator Trent was able to meet with some of his long time constituents. Later in the visit, there was a great opportunity to sit down and talk about the issues facing skilled nursing facilities and how his support can make a difference with the funding disparities as well as the workforce crisis. These concerns brought up by the facility were well received by Senator Trent and he understands the industry and the struggles far better when he is able to sit down with those who are fully entrenched in the LTC industry. MHCA wants to give a very thankful shout out to the facility and their commitment to advocacy on behalf of their facility and their residents!

COVID-19 & Influenza Updates

Preparing for Fall Vaccinations in Long-Term Care

As fall approaches, long-term care (LTC) providers should be preparing to vaccinate their residents and staff against common respiratory viruses. There are three vaccines that providers should be aware of and prepared to offer to their staff and residents:
- Influenza
- COVID-19
- Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV)

Below is a summary of clinical considerations and administration of each vaccine, other regulatory considerations, and resources to help promote uptake. This reflects information available to date, but more information is expected to be released in the coming months from the CDC, HHS, and other relevant agencies. **We will update you as new recommendations and considerations are released.**

Why prioritize vaccination?
Respiratory season can be dangerous for individuals 65 and up, and those with underlying health conditions. Elderly individuals residing in nursing homes and assisted living communities are at most risk of complications due to respiratory illnesses.

- Adults 65 and older and individuals with certain chronic health conditions benefit from both the influenza and COVID-19 vaccine.
  ◦ Preliminary estimates show that last season people who were vaccinated against the flu were about 40% to 70% less likely to be hospitalized because of flu illness or related complications.

- RSV infections can be dangerous for older adults. Each year, it is estimated that between 60,000 – 160,000 older adults in the United States are hospitalized and 6,000 – 10,000 of them die due to RSV infection. Adults at highest risk for severe RSV infection include older adults 65 years and older, and those with chronic heart or lung disease and weakened immune systems.

Influenza Vaccine
On June 29, 2023, the CDC announced its 2023-2024 recommendations for the annual influenza (flu) vaccination. The composition of the vaccine for the 2023-2024 flu season was updated to best match the influenza strains that research indicates will likely be the most common during the upcoming season.

Consistent with previous years, the CDC recommends individuals receive their flu vaccine in September or October. **Vaccination for seniors 65 and older should be avoided in July or August unless vaccination in September or October is not possible.**

In years past, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) has recommended that adults older than 65 years preferentially receive any one of the following higher dose or adjuvanted influenza vaccines:
- Quadrivalent high-dose inactivated influenza vaccine (HD-IIV4),
- Quadrivalent recombinant influenza vaccine (RIV4), or
- Quadrivalent adjuvanted inactivated influenza vaccine (aIIV4).

If none of these three vaccines is available at an opportunity for vaccine administration, then any other age-appropriate influenza vaccine should be used. AHCA/NCAL anticipates this recommendation to remain the same for the 2023-2024 flu season.

COVID-19 Booster
The CDC also recommends that people aged 65 years and older may get one additional dose of the COVID-19 vaccine four or more months after the first updated COVID-19 vaccine.

AHCA/NCAL also expects that an updated COVID-19 booster targeting the most prevalent strains of COVID-19

will be distributed as early as September as part of a fall booster campaign.

RSV Vaccine
The FDA recently authorized the first vaccination to protect against RSV. The vaccines, from manufacturers GSV and Pfizer, will be available this fall. The CDC recommends these vaccines for people aged 60 and older using shared clinical decision-making. This means these individuals may receive a single dose of the vaccine based on discussions with their health care provider about whether RSV vaccination is right for them.

Based on the risk posed by RSV to older people and those with underlying health conditions, AHCA/NCAL recommends providers discuss these vaccines with their residents.

Other Regulatory Considerations
COVID-19 vaccination is no longer required for nursing home staff. However, CMS-certified nursing facilities are required to report both the Influenza Vaccination Coverage among Healthcare Personnel and the COVID-19 Vaccine Coverage among Healthcare Personnel to the NHSN to meet the requirements of the SNF Quality Reporting Program (QRP).

Encouraging Vaccine Uptake
Vaccine hesitancy continues to be a huge challenge for LTC providers. Several resources providers can use to encourage vaccine update are as follows:

- AHCA's #GetVaccinated website has strategies, tools, and resources to help providers communicate the importance of vaccines with their staff and residents.
- AHCA/NCAL Building Trust: A Strategy to Improve Patient Safety, Staff Wellbeing & Vaccine Uptake in Long Term Care - This free 4-part course equips leaders with the tools and resources to help leaders build trust with staff to encourage vaccine uptake.
- CDC's Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Facility Toolkit – Influenza vaccination among healthcare personnel.
- CDC's Vaccinate with Confidence

Update on HHS' Abbott BinaxNOW Test Kit Program

Skilled nursing facilities and assisted living communities continue to receive or are eligible to receive free monthly shipments of Abbott BinaxNOW over the counter (OTC) COVID-19 test kits from the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). This program, which has been in place since 2020, will continue through at least the end of 2023. As a reminder, facilities/communities must have an active CLIA waiver to be eligible to participate in this program.

Shipments can be started and stopped, and test quantities can be increased or decreased by emailing Binax.team@hhs.gov. The email must include:

- Name of the facility
- Facility address
- CLIA waiver number
- Request (stop, start, increase, decrease)

Please note - it may take a week or two to update the shipping information.

If you have an influx of test kits and aren't sure how to use them, keep in mind that since the tests are OTC, you can provide them to visitors, staff, or residents for their personal use as well. All tests that have been shipped to long term care facilities have expiration dates in December or January. The exact expiration dates for the tests can be found on the FDA website.

For questions related to the HHS BinaxNOW distribution Program, please email Binax.team@hhs.gov.

CDC Launches Updated COVID-19 Webpage

After months of website updates, the CDC has launched an improved COVID-19 website. Based on the needs of the public, the updates are more streamlined and easier for the public to find relevant information on COVID-19. As the fall and winter months approach, it is likely that cases of COVID-19 and other respiratory viruses will increase as people move indoors, and the website will be a helpful resource for relevant information.

The CDC also recognizes the importance of transparency. As such, webpages from the previous version of the COVID-19 webpages can be found in the archived section. When accessing older information in the archive section, a pop-up message will appear indicating that users are accessing archived information.

Update to COVID-19 Vaccination Measures on Nursing Home Care Compare

The NHSN is no longer collecting primary vaccination series data. To reflect this update, **starting July 6**, CMS will remove the percentages of residents and staff with completed primary vaccination series from the Nursing Home Care Compare website and the Nursing Home Data COVID-19 website. Both sites will continue to display the "up-to-date" vaccination data, which the CDC will continue to collect. For questions, please email COVID19@ahca.org.

Missouri Nursing Facility Strike Team and Infrastructure Reimbursement Opportunity

The Strike Team has made an informative webinar for SNF/LTC and other facilities describing the Missouri Nursing Facility Strike Team and Infrastructure Reimbursement Opportunity. This webinar reviews (1) how to get to the site where they can find the application, (2) the Application Guidance and Frequently Asked Questions, (3) the steps needed to apply, and (4) other useful information. This webinar has been posted to the Health Care Professionals page on the DHSS website.

Certificate of Need

On July 24, 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 September 11, 2023, in Jefferson City, MO. To view the tentative agenda, 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 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

Delivering Solutions 23 AHCA/NCAL Convention & Expo

Mark your calendars for Delivering Solutions 23, the AHCA/NCAL Annual Convention & Expo to be held in Denver, CO from October 1-4, 2023. Please click here to register for access to:

- 80+ education sessions, recorded sessions (when you purchase the Premium Full package)
- Up to 14.5 CEs, nurse CE units are available
- Incredible keynote speakers
- Two-day Expo Hall with more than 300 exhibiting companies
- Two new, all-inclusive events: Elevating Excellence and the Mile High Jamboree
- Great networking and social events

Perspectives in Long-Term Care - A New Podcast Launched by AHCA/NCAL

The premiere episode of Perspectives in Long Term Care – a brand new podcast series from AHCA/NCAL – is now available wherever you listen to podcasts.

Episode 1 dives into ways to combat workforce challenges with Christopher Schmidt, President and CEO of Schmidt Wallace Healthcare in Alabama. He brings more than 35 years of experience in the long-term care industry to the discussion. In this episode, Chris explains how his company recruits and retains staff, creates a culture that people want to stick with, and other ideas on how facilities and leaders can address other workforce issues.

The Perspectives in Long Term Care podcast features key voices with the long-term and post-acute care community. During each monthly episode, guests will discuss current topics related to workforce challenges, assisted living, quality improvement, leadership, innovation, and more. The podcast is hosted by Deborah Stadtler, editor in chief of *Provider* magazine, the flagship publication of AHCA/NCAL. Subscribe today on Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts, Spotify, or wherever you listen to your favorite podcasts.

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 - Self-Care Through Self-Empathy

AHCA/NCAL's Self-Care in Long Term Care podcast series continues. Launched this month, the seventh podcast focuses on self-care through self-empathy. This podcast series 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. The sixth podcast focuses on self-compassion and how to integrate it into daily routines through mindfulness, humanity, and self-kindness.

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

COMRU Return and Survey Access Codes

Due to a required change in the database platform, the COMRU online applications for Level 1/Level 2 (old DA124s) forms are no longer accessible by your **CURRENT RETURN CODES** since Friday, July 14, 2023. As of Monday, July 17, a **NEW RETURN CODE** is required to access all applications entered prior to July 17, 2023.

This change will **not** affect any application initiated after **July 17, 2023.** You will continue to receive a valid return code for all new applications submitted to COMRU after July 17, 2023.

COMRU is providing the following guidance regarding the online application entitled **"Application started prior to 07-16-2023".**

COMRU will be providing you with a **"Survey Access Code";** please note this is different from the return code.

- The **"Survey Access Code"** will allow the submitter to access the application to check the status.

- If the submitter clicks "Submit- Ready for Processing by COMRU" or "Save and Return Later", the submitter will be provided with a "Return Code". **At this point, the "Survey Access Code _AND_ the "Return Code" will be needed to access the application in the future.**

- Please **do not** click the "Start Over" button, as this will **DELETE** the **Entire Application.** (COMRU will not be able to retrieve the application if this occurs).

Please do not hesitate to contact COMRU at 573-522-3092 for any questions.

Upcoming Deadline Reminder for the SNF Quality Reporting Program

SNFs must report their 2023 Quarter 1 (December 26, 2022 – March 26, 2023) Weekly Healthcare Personnel COVID-19 Vaccination Summary data to the NHSN by **August 15, 2023**. A published, detailed guide on how to enter CMS reportable data in the NHSN is in the [NHSN's recent newsletter](#).

It is important that facilities enter data in a timely manner ahead of the August 15 deadline to ensure data completion and accuracy. Facilities should allow extra time to review their data for accuracy.

If there is a change in the NHSN Facility Administrator, please complete the [Change NHSN Facility Administrator online form](#). For questions or assistance with accessing the NHSN and/or reassignment of the Facility Administrator or Primary Contacts, please contact nhsn@cdc.gov.

Quality Reporting Program: Non-Compliance Letters for FY 2024 APU

CMS is providing notifications to facilities that were determined to be out of compliance with Quality Reporting Program (QRP) requirements for CY 2022, which will affect their FY 2024 Annual Payment Update (APU). Non-compliance notifications are being distributed by the Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs) and were placed into SNFs' My Reports folders in iQIES on **July 20, 2023**. Facilities that receive a letter of non-compliance may submit a request for reconsideration to CMS **via email no later than 11:59 pm, August 18, 2023.**

If you receive a notice of non-compliance and would like to request a reconsideration, see the instructions in your notice of non-compliance and on the [SNF Quality Reporting Reconsideration and Exception & Extension](#) webpage.

Nursing Home Providers Login Credentials Maintenance

Please remember that you must maintain accurate contact information and login credentials in the QIES system even though all Minimum Data Set (MDS) information is now being submitted via the Internet Quality Improvement and Evaluation System (iQIES) system. You will continue to receive important information regarding any findings of noncompliance with the requirement to report COVID-19 data to the CDC through the NHSN in your **CASPER Shared Folder**. This means that facilities will need to continue to maintain two sets of login credentials, one set to access the CASPER Reporting application [CMS Network (CMSNet) and QIES Login credentials] and the HARP login credentials to continue submission of MDS records and accessing reports in iQIES.

Here is the link for the CASPER login: https://web.qiesnet.org/qiesmds/mds_home.html. Please be sure that you are successfully logged into the CMS Network (CMSNet) prior to trying to access the CASPER link below.

See below to find your CASPER Shared Folder:
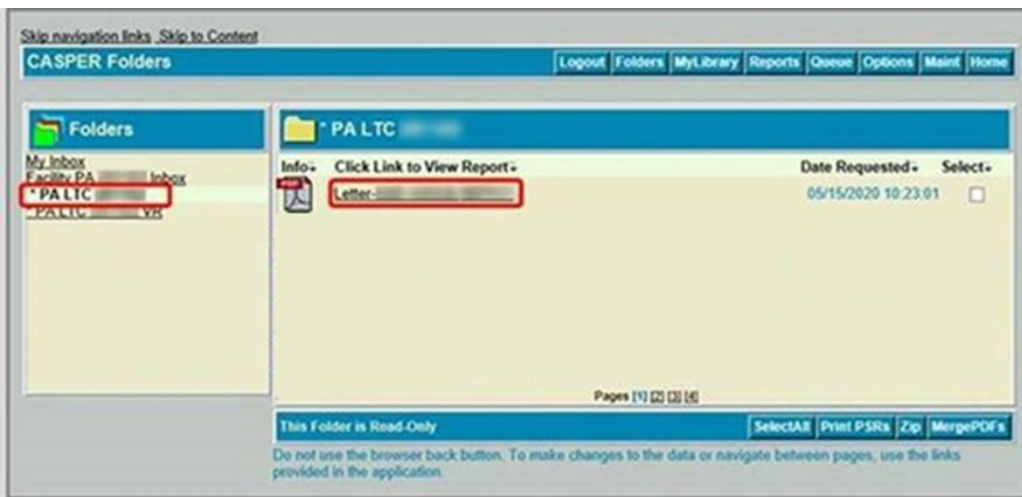

Image 1. Welcome to CASPER

Image 2. CASPER folders.

For questions regarding your CASPER Shared Folder, please contact the QIES/iQIES Service Center by phone at (800) 339-9313 or send an email.

CMS Posts Nursing Home Ownership and Performance Data on Care Compare

As part of the White House initiative to increase transparency of corporate ownership and operation of nursing homes, CMS released QSO-23-18-NH, announcing the addition of ownership information to Nursing Home Care Compare. CMS identified groups of Medicare-certified nursing homes linked together by common owners and operators referred to as "affiliated entities." Ownership data comes from:

- The Provider Enrollment, Chain, and Ownership System (PECOS);
- The electronic Medicare enrollment system; and
- National data repository for individual and organization providers who have enrolled or are enrolling in Medicare.

Additionally, CMS is publishing the Nursing Home Affiliated Entity Performance Measures dataset on data.cms.com. The data will combine inspection, staffing, quality, and other performance metrics across these affiliated entities.

Both data sets were published **as of June 28, 2023. Providers who have questions or updates to their nursing home affiliated entity assignment should contact** NH_Affiliation_Inquiries@cms.hhs.gov.

Focus MDS Updates for July Prepared 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 July to highlight changes that members need to know.

Changes to Section J include:
- Revision of the Pain Assessment Interview by expanding questions to reflect:
  - Pain effect on sleep;
  - Pain interference with therapy activities; and
  - Pain interference with day-to-day activities.

AHCA has created an MDS Section J resource document to help providers breakdown the changes. The information in the resource document outlines key changes to MDS Section J, Coding Instructions/RAI Guidelines for each item, and Actions to Consider for implementation across your facility.

Changes to Section K (Swallowing/Nutritional Status) include:
- The expansion of timeframes for recording answers related to nutritional approaches, including:
  - On admission;
  - While not a resident;
  - While a resident; and
  - At discharge.

AHCA has created an MDS Section K resource document to help providers breakdown the changes. The information in the resource document outlines key changes to MDS Section K, Coding Instructions/RAI Guidelines for each item, and Actions to Consider for implementation across your facility.

Changes to Section N (Medications) include:
- The addition of two new classes of medications:
  - Antiplatelet
  - Hypoglycemic
- The coding change from counting the total number of days the resident received the medication to two new columns:

- Is taking
- Indication noted

AHCA has created an MDS Section N resource document to help providers breakdown the changes. The information outlines key changes to MDS Section N, Coding Instructions/RAI Guidelines for each item, and Actions to Consider for implementation across your facility.

Changes to Section O (Special Treatments, Procedures, and Programs) include:
- The expansion from two columns to three to reflect new timeframes:
  - On admission
  - While a resident
  - At discharge

- Expansion on several items:
  - Chemotherapy
  - Oxygen
  - Suctioning
  - Non-Invasive Mechanical Ventilator
  - IV Medications
  - Dialysis
  - IV access

AHCA has created an MDS Section O resource document to help providers breakdown the changes. The information outlines key changes to MDS Section O, 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 Section J. Health Conditions
- SNF Section K: Swallowing/Nutritional Status
- SNF Section N: Medications
- SNF Section O: Special Treatments, Procedures, and Programs
- 2023 SNF Guidance Training Program

OSHA Releases Final Rule on Improving Tracking of Workplace Injuries and Illness

The Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA) published a final rule on Improving Tracking of Workplace Injuries and Illnesses. This rule, effective January 1, 2024, modifies existing requirements for reporting workplace injuries and illnesses. This rule directly impacts LTC facilities with more than 100 employees.

Existing Requirements
OSHA has long-standing reporting requirements related to workplace injuries and illnesses. These requirements are applicable to "designated industries" or "industries that are required to routinely keep OSHA

injury and illness records", both of which include LTC facilities.

- Establishments with 20-249 employees in certain designated industries are required to electronically submit information from their Form 300A annual summary to OSHA once a year.
- Establishments with 250 or more employees in industries that are required to routinely keep OSHA injury and illness records will continue to be required to electronically submit information from the Form 300A to OSHA once a year.
- Establishments with 20-249 employees in certain designated industries are required to electronically submit information from their Form 300A summary to OSHA once a year.

This final rule makes no changes to the requirements listed above so LTC employers must continue abiding by these requirements.

New Requirement
With the publication of this final rule, which goes into effect on January 1, 2024, OSHA is now requiring establishments with 100 or more employees in certain designated industries to electronically submit information from their OSHA Forms 300 and 301 to OSHA once a year.

In addition, OSHA will be requiring establishments to include their legal company name as part of their annual submission, which it intends to make publicly available on a database alongside the generalized information. As with the requirements above, this include LTC facilities.

OSHA Forms
A summary of the OSHA forms, which can be found on the OSHA recordkeeping website, are as follows:

- **OSHA Form 300, the Log of Work-Related Injuries and Illnesses.** This form includes information about the employee's name, job title, date of the injury or illness, where the injury or illness occurred, description of the injury or illness (e.g., body part affected), and the outcome of the injury or illness (e.g., death, days away from work, job transfer or restriction).
- **OSHA Form 301, the Injury and Illness Incident Report.** This form includes the employee's name and address, date of birth, date hired, and gender and the name and address of the health care professional that treated the employee, as well as more detailed information about where and how the injury or illness occurred.
- **OSHA Form 300A, the Annual Summary of Work-Related Injuries and Illnesses.** This form includes general information about an employer's workplace, such as the average number of employees and the total number of hours worked by all employees during the calendar year. It does not contain information about individual employees. Employers are required to prepare this form at the end of each year and post the form in a visible location in the workplace from February 1 to April 30 of the year following the year covered by the form.

IMPORTANT: This final rule becomes effective on January 1, 2024. Employers must submit the required information by March 2, 2024.

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

Updated Missouri Nurse Aide Candidate Handbook

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.

Health Education Unit Updates

The DHSS Health Education Unit and Headmaster D & S has announced some revisions to the skills portion of the CNA exam shown in the Candidate Handbook **effective July 1, 2023**. Please see the new updated version at Missouri Nurse Aide Candidate Handbook (hdmaster.com) for the changes.

For any questions, please contact the DHSS Health Education Unit at 573-526-5676 and/or Headmaster D & S at 800-393-8664.

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.

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 July 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

Submit a 2024 Quality Award Application

The AHCA/NCAL Quality Award team is excited to announce that the 2024 Bronze, Silver, and Gold applications and criteria videos are now available. Please visit the Quality Award website to access:

- Bronze, Silver, and Gold applications and roadmaps
- Quality Award Criteria Series for Bronze, Silver, and Gold applications. Each module is about 20 to 30 minutes in length and allows applicants to work at their own pace.

Quality Award applications take a lot more time than most people think. It involves writing and responding to each criteria, collecting data, reviewing, and finally submitting in the Portal. If you plan to apply for a 2024 award, maximize the time you have between now and August. Take these initial steps to kick off the application year right!

- Save ALL key dates to the calendar available on the website.
- Connect or update your facility in the application portal.
- Get registered or make updates in LTC Trend Tracker.
- Get registered on ahcancalED for access to free Criteria Series videos.
- Identify and gather your application team.
- Begin reviewing Bronze, Silver, OR Gold Roadmaps and watch Bronze, Silver, or Gold Criteria series videos with your team.

For any questions, please email the National Quality Award team at qualityaward@ahca.org.

Bullying Among Seniors: A Prevention and Surveillance Guide - Update Resource

As you know, bullying isn't limited to playgrounds. ALFs care for millions of seniors with diverse backgrounds and unique needs and behaviors. Bullying and its adverse effects have received greater focus in recent years, creating a need to have systems and processes in place to prevent bullying among seniors living in long term care.

For this reason, the National Center for Assisted Living (NCAL) has updated the Bullying Among Seniors: A Prevention and Surveillance Guide. This guide will help organizations understand:

- What bullying is
- How to identify bullying
- Why bullying might occur
- Victim risk factors
- How to create a positive environment
- How to respond to incidents of bullying

AHCA Publishes New Behavioral Health Resource

AHCA's Clinical Practice Committee has published a Quick Guide to Behavioral Health Resources in LTC, which is a comprehensive list of free resources for providers. LTC providers seeking assistance and support on promoting or managing behavioral health issues among residents are encouraged to check out this guide. These resources can be used directly by the facility and shared with residents and their families.

Center of Excellence - July Update

The Center of Excellence for Behavioral Health in Nursing Facilities (COE-NF) released new trainings for the month of July. In addition to the resources and July 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 mindfulness
- Mental illness
- Regulations
- Substance use disorder (SUD)
- Trauma informed care
- Addressing alcohol use in nursing facilities

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](#)
- [Infection Control Assessment and Response (ICAR) Team evaluation](#) - ICAR assessments are free of charge and provide non-punitive feedback on your existing practices. You will receive immediate feedback during an ICAR assessment (virtual or onsite), followed by a detailed report. Your ICAR feedback report can be used as an internal working document to support your existing Quality Assessment and Assurance (QAA) program. For more information or to schedule an ICAR for your facility, email musonicarproject@missouri.edu.

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 winterbowert@missouri.edu. Please take the [survey](#) now to see if you qualify for FREE registration.

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.

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

Memory Care Certification Launches for Assisted Living Facilities

The Joint Commission, in collaboration with the Alzheimer's Association, has launched a memory care certification program for assisted living facilities. The specialty certification, which is voluntary, is meant to recognize facilities that are accredited by the Joint Commission and meet its standards to support the delivery of high-quality care for residents in whom Alzheimer's disease or other forms of dementia have been diagnosed.

The new certification requirements reflect current evidence-based practices in memory care, and they align with Alzheimer's Association dementia care practice recommendations, introduced in 2018 for nonphysician caregivers in assisted living facilities, nursing homes, and other long-term care and community settings. The standards specifically address the needs of residents living with dementia, including environment-of-care requirements that organizations provide visual cues or landmarks in the physical environment to assist with wayfinding, as well as provide an environment in which noises that may overstimulate or distress residents are minimized. Additional requirements address human resources, information management, leadership, medication management, the provision of care, treatment and services, and the record of care, treatment, and services.

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.

Membership Updates & Services

August 2023 - Employee Recognition Program

In the month of August, MHCA will recognize **Volunteers.** 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

MDS Coordinator - Lutheran Senior Services in St. Charles has an opening for an MDS Coordinator. Click here for more information.

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, 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 Struemph for more information.

Business Partners Corner

MHCA's Sponsors and Business Partners are an integral part of the Association. They support many of our efforts, including the Annual Convention, Mid-Year Conference and district events. MHCA is now highlighting the activities and the hard work of our Business Partners. If you have educational information or sessions you would like to include in our newsletter, please email Michelle Walters or Teresa Baysinger.

Wound Champions in the Post-Acute LTC Setting - Attend this basic to intermediate program to update your wound prevention and management knowledge and skills on October 5, 2023 at Orlando Gardens in Maryland Heights.   *Presented by RestorixHealth.*

75th Annual Convention & Trade Show Updates

Its Not Too Late - Register Today!

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 to view the convention 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! Book your hotel rooms now - room are selling out fast! Click here for a full list of hotel information.

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.

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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

RAI Process from Start to Finish
August 8-9 | Courtyard by Marriott | Jefferson City

Medicare from Start to Finish
September 13 | MHCA Office | Jefferson City

Federal Review Course - Hybrid Workshop
November 13-14 | MHCA Office | Jefferson City

Online and Virtual Workshops

Federal Review Course - Hybrid Workshop
November 13-14 | Virtual

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 August 1 - August 29, 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