

August 31, 2023

# Message From the President



## Facility Members & Business Partners,

Summer is quickly coming to a close which means kids are back in school, cooler days are on the way, and football is back!! I hope everyone had a nice summer and you found some time to unwind with friends and family. As we move into autumn it is a great time to invite your legislators into your facility or at least reach out to them to either develop a relationship or expand an existing relationship. While they are home in their district, they should be eager to network with constituents. As they ramp up for another legislative session early next year, it is very timely to remind them of the important role our facilities play in the community as well as the challenges we currently face.

In addition to renewing our efforts locally we also need to be mindful of the issues we're facing nationally. The American Health Care Association (AHCA) will be sending out a call to action related to the federal government's plan to implement a minimum staffing standard for long term care. Please do your part in the letter writing campaign to the CMS on this important issue. Our industry has proven that when we stand united and voice our concerns, more often than not, they listen. It does not guarantee victory, but silence will most certainly guarantee failure. Please do your part!

Our number one priority for the coming year is another rebase where our post-COVID costs are recognized, and we're reimbursed accordingly. This will be a significant challenge for us, but we are prepared for that challenge. We've laid the groundwork with MO HealthNet, Senate leadership, House leadership, and the governor's office. These steps don't guarantee us anything, but it does put us in a good position as we move forward.

I would like to conclude by saying "thank you". I want to thank you for your support, your words of encouragement, and your faith in me. It is truly an honor to serve this great association and I am sincerely grateful for the opportunity.

Sincerely,

**Eric Doerhoff**  
MHCA President 2022-2023

## In This Issue. . .

- [Reimbursement & Budget](#)..2
- [Legislative Update](#).....3
- [COVID-19 Updates](#) ..... 4-6
- [Certificate of Need](#)..... 5
- [AHCA & National News](#).. 5-6
- [Regulatory Update](#) ..... 7-14
- [Quality, Programs & Resources](#)..... 14-17
- [Assisted Living Update](#) ..... 17
- [Membership Updates & Services](#).....18
- [Career Openings](#) ..... 18
- [Award Winners](#) ..... 19
- [2023 Sponsors](#) ..... 20
- [Education & Events](#)..... 21



## 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](http://www.mohealthcare.com)



Missouri Health Care Association

## Reimbursement and Budget Updates

### Status of January 1, 2023 Final Rate Letters Released

As reported earlier this month, the January 1, 2023, final rate letters were posted to the Myers & Stauffer portal on August 24, 2023. MO HealthNet keyed the new rates into the system on August 28, 2023. As such, for all Medicaid days billed after August 28, 2023, the rate will be paid at your facility's January 1, 2023, SNF Medicaid rate.

The state is still working on a timeline for making any mass adjusted retroactive payments back to January 1, 2023, for facilities who have incurred an increase to their Medicaid rate. Likewise, we are still working with the state to determine how and when they will handle any recoupment of overpayments to facilities as a result of decreases to facility rates effective January 1, 2023.

As a reminder and as we have previously reported, facilities may see significant increases to their January 1 rate as a result of increases to their CMIs. Facilities may also see significant decreases in their rate as a result of decreases to their CMI. Some facilities may see little to no changes in their rate.

**Please Note:** This is the first adjustment since the state incorporated CMI and VBP incentives into the SNF Medicaid rate plan. This should give facilities a glimpse of how important it is to properly capture acuties on their MDS and the impact acuties will have on their rates.

As soon as we learn any additional information regarding the mass adjusted payments or recoupments, we will report that to the membership.

### Status of July 1, 2023 CMI/VBP Rate Adjustment and \$10/PPD Increase

The state is still in the process of calculating the July 1, 2023, rate adjustments based on changes in CMI and the Value Based Payment incentive. MO HealthNet will be releasing resident listings for facilities to review and correct any mistakes in their MDS's. MoHealth Net does not know exactly when they will have the data ready to release the resident listings but anticipate it will be ready to release sometime in the next month or so. We will keep you updated as we learn more.

In addition, the \$10/PPD rate increase and increase to the VBP incentive effective on July 1, 2023, will not be able to be paid to facilities until CMS approves the state plan amendment. We have no idea when CMS will approve the increase, but historically, a simple across the board increase like this usually is approved in the late November/December time frame. Once we have any feedback from the state and CMS on the timeline, we will share that with the membership. We don't anticipate approval until closer to the end of the year.

## Legislative Update

### Legislative Tours

PLEASE consider hosting your legislators for a tour of your facility. As we discussed at the MHCA Convention earlier this week, hosting facility tours or reaching out to your legislators to explain the dire need to rebase our SNF Medicaid rate based on post-COVID costs is imperative to our success securing another rebase during the 2024 Legislative Session. Sarah Henke will be reaching out to facilities in legislative districts represented by key budget leaders in both the House and Senate; however, it is imperative that all our facilities reach out and host their legislators to discuss the financial, workforce and other challenges plaguing our sector.

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. 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, please share your experience so we can highlight your advocacy efforts on social media and in the newsletter!

**Please schedule these meetings today. For assistance scheduling a visit with your legislators and/or for talking points, please reach out to Sarah Henke at [sarah@mohealthcare.com](mailto:sarah@mohealthcare.com).**

### Advocacy Highlight



### **Copper Rock Healthcare**

Copper Rock Healthcare was excited to welcome U.S. Congressman Eric Burlison and State Senator Curtis Trent to our facility for a tour and visit with our residents. We discussed the challenges that long term care faces with overburdening regulations and funding and our desire as a not-for-profit organization to provide excellent care and services to the residents during these very difficult times. We discussed our challenges to recruit, pay, and retain nursing staff in this highly competitive market and our high dependence on Medicaid as the payer for our residents. We also discussed how our Medicaid reimbursement rate is seriously underfunded. They both were great gentlemen, and it shows how much they care for our seniors and that they have not forgotten them. The residents and staff were all excited to have them visiting us and their caring hearts really made a difference here at CRH.

## COVID-19 & Influenza Updates

### CDC Released New Resources on Enhanced Barrier Precautions

The CDC has released new resources to assist nursing home staff with understanding the benefits of and implementing [Enhanced Barrier Precautions \(EBPs\)](#). Multidrug-resistant organisms (MDROs) are a known threat to nursing home residents; these germs can cause serious infections that are often hard to treat. EBPs are infection prevention and control practices that can help reduce the spread of MDROs in nursing homes and protect residents. These new resources will help staff, residents, and loved ones learn more about why EBPs are important and when these practices should be used.

Provided below are the Video and Print Resources:

- Videos
  - [Enhanced Barrier Precautions in Nursing Homes](#)
- Print Resources
  - [Facility Poster – Enhanced Barrier Precautions Steps](#)
  - [Staff Pocket Guide – Enhanced Barrier Precautions](#)
  - [Resident and Loved Ones Poster – How We Keep Our Residents Safe](#)

In addition, AHCA/NCAL will be hosting a session on EBP at [Delivering Solutions 23, AHCA/NCAL's Convention & Expo](#) on October 1-4, 2023, in Denver, CO. The session will feature a panel of nursing home leaders who have been successful at implementing EBPs in their facilities and share best practices and implementation tips.

### CDC Develops Antibiotic Resistance and Patient Safety Portal

The CDC has developed an [Antibiotic Resistance & Patient Safety Portal \(AR&PSP\)](#), which enables you to explore and visualize data on antimicrobial resistance and patient safety across multiple health care settings and different geographic locations. The CDC recently highlighted new updates on the portal that may be of interest to long term care providers:

- A new page for [Healthcare-Associated Infections in Dialysis](#) featuring 2019 data
- Explore 2021-2022 data on the new [Healthcare Personnel Influenza Vaccination](#) page
- Latest data from 2021 on the [Core Elements of Antibiotic Stewardship for Nursing Homes](#) implementation page

### COVID-19: CPT Codes for Vaccines No Longer Authorized

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recently announced more vaccines no longer authorized for use in the United States. Medicare doesn't pay for the following CPT codes effective:

- June 1, 2023, Janssen: 0031A, 0034A, and 91303
- April 18, 2023, Moderna: 0011A, 0012A, 0013A, 0064A, 0091A, 0092A, 0093A, 0094A, 0111A, 0112A, 0113A, 91301, 91306, 91309, and 91311
- April 18, 2023, Pfizer, 0001A, 0002A, 0003A, 0004A, 0051A, 0052A, 0053A, 0054A, 0071A, 0072A, 0073A, 0074A, 0081A, 0082A, 0083A, 91300, 91305, 91307, and 91308

Providers are encouraged to visit the [CMS COVID-19 Vaccine Provider Toolkit](#) for more information and to get the [most current list of billing codes, payment allowances, and effective dates](#). **Note: You may need to refresh your browser if you recently visited these webpages.**

## HQI has launched the “Your Health Can’t Wait, Vaccinate!” Campaign

To promote and increase adult vaccinations, and celebrate August as National Immunization month, Health Quality Innovators (HQI) has launched the *Your Health Can’t Wait, Vaccinate!* campaign. As the CMS-designated Quality Innovation Network – Quality Improvement Organization for Missouri, HQI collaborates with healthcare providers and community partners to improve the quality of healthcare in our region.

The “*Your Health Can’t Wait, Vaccinate!*” campaign features a variety of [free campaign materials](#), which include social media messaging (images and sample posts), informational pocket cards, customizable letters, sample email signatures, and flyers, to help encourage community members, healthcare providers, and older adults to get and stay current with their vaccinations. Bookmark the [HQIN Resource Center](#) and visit often to access the latest additions from nationally recognized agencies and organizations (CDC, ACIP, etc.).

## 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

### 2023 Mid-Year Update from AHCA President and CEO Mark Parkinson

Please click [here](#) to read the 2023 Mid-Year Update from Mark Parkinson on the achievements and obstacles from 2023 so far and what is on the horizon for the long-term care sector.

### 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

## **Podcast: Self-Care in Long Term Care - Building Resilient Teams**

AHCA/NCAL's Self-Care in Long Term Care podcast series continues. Launched this month, the [eighth podcast](#) focuses on self-care to build resilient teams. This 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 can 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. The [seventh podcast](#) focuses on self-care through self-empathy.

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 Members Host Record Number of Facility Tours for Congressional Delegates**

Last month, AHCA/NCAL President and CEO Mark Parkinson challenged members to see which state could get the highest percentage of Congressional delegates to visit a facility or community before October 1. AHCA/NCAL members have taken the challenge seriously and over 40 tours have taken place in the month of August, and 100 tours have been conducted in 2023 thus far. Although the challenge may end October 1, facility and community tours will continue through the end of the year. **Inviting members of Congress to tour during the fall will be crucial as we continue to prepare for the proposed staffing rule from CMS.**

Nothing communicates the needs of long-term care better than having a Congressional delegate visit a facility or community. The impact these visits have on members of Congress is astounding, and seeing staff and residents in their true setting helps these delegates understand the hard work, dedication, and quality care the profession provides and the challenge it faces.

If you are interested in hosting a tour, please contact [Matt Smyth](#) or [Heather Posthumus](#).

## **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

### Collecting Healthcare Personnel Influenza Vaccination Data for Long-Term Care Facilities to Prepare for the 2023-2024 Influenza Seasons

Below is some key information to help long-term care facilities (LTCFs) prepare for collecting annual healthcare personnel (HCP) influenza vaccination summary data for the upcoming influenza season.

#### Which facilities are required to report these data?

- CMS-certified skilled nursing facilities (SNFs) are required to report HCP influenza vaccination summary data through NHSN.

#### What data is submitted?

- The reporting period for the 2023-2024 influenza season is from October 1, 2023, through March 31, 2024. Facilities are only required to submit one report that covers the entire reporting period.

#### How should facilities submit these data?

- Facilities must report **annual HCP influenza vaccination** summary data through the NHSN **Healthcare Personnel Safety (HPS)** Component.

#### Who can activate the HPS Component?

- Only the NHSN **Facility Administrator (FA)** can activate a new component. The NHSN FA can then add users, including the HPS Component Primary Contact, once the component is activated.
- If the NHSN FA leaves the facility but does not transfer the role of FA to another individual prior to leaving, please complete the NHSN Facility Administrator Change Request Form: <https://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/facadmin/index.html>.
- Please **do not de-activate** any other NHSN Components, such as the LTC Facility Component.

#### What is required for LTCFs to access the HPS Component?

- Level 3 access is required to activate the HPS Component. If you do not currently have Level 3 access, you will receive an invitation to Level 3 reporting by September 1, 2023, via e-mail. For additional questions, please send an e-mail to [NHSN@cdc.gov](mailto:NHSN@cdc.gov) and place "SAMS Level 3 Access" in the e-mail subject line.

#### Where can facilities access training materials?

- Materials pertaining to annual HCP influenza vaccination data reporting are organized under the "Annual" reporting headings on this webpage: [HCP Flu Vaccination | HPS | NHSN | CDC](#).

#### What are key training materials for LTCFs?

- This slide deck reviews how LTC facilities can report annual HCP influenza vaccination data through NHSN: [HCP Influenza Vaccination Summary \(cdc.gov\)](#).
- This operational guidance document outlines the CMS reporting requirement: [Operational Guidance for Skilled Nursing Facilities to Report Annual Influenza Vaccination Data to CDC's NHSN](#).
- There will be a refresher training for LTCFs this fall. Registration information will be provided at a later date.

#### Who do facilities contact with questions?

- Please direct all questions regarding CMS SNF QRP requirements and deadlines to: [SNFQualityQuestions@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:SNFQualityQuestions@cms.hhs.gov).
- For questions on how to enter annual HCP influenza vaccination summary data through NHSN, please send an e-mail to [nhsn@cdc.gov](mailto:nhsn@cdc.gov) with "HPS Flu Summary – LTCF" in the e-mail subject line.

## **CMS Releases Final Version of MDS 3.0 Item Set**

In August 2023, CMS released the updated final Minimum Data Set (MDS) 3.0 Item Sets version (v) 1.18.11 and it is now available in the Downloads section on the [Minimum Data Set \(MDS\) 3.0 Resident Assessment Instrument \(RAI\) Manual page](#). **All item sets have been replaced with revised versions. This will be the final version of the MDS Item Sets v1.18.11 that will be effective beginning October 1, 2023.**

A document listing all changes from the MDS 3.0 RAI Manual v1.18.11 draft version to the final version is available for reference in the Downloads section on the [Minimum Data Set \(MDS\) 3.0 Resident Assessment Instrument \(RAI\) Manual](#) page.

## **Outpatient Rehabilitation Claims with Reason Code W7072: Do You Need to Resubmit Claims?**

CMS recently indicated that Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs) have returned some institutional, outpatient physical and occupational therapy or speech-language pathology claims with reason code W7072 in error between January 1 – June 30, 2023.

The MACs will not automatically reprocess these claims. Provider billing staff should resubmit claims that were returned in error. These claims include:

- CPT codes: 98980, 98981 (either or both)
  - CPT code 98980 – Remote therapeutic monitoring treatment management services, physician/other qualified health care professional time in a calendar month requiring at least one interactive communication with the patient/caregiver during the calendar month; first 20 minutes; and
  - CPT code 98981 – Remote therapeutic monitoring treatment management services, physician/other qualified health care professional time in a calendar month requiring at least one interactive communication with the patient/caregiver during the calendar month; each additional 20 minutes (list separately in addition to code for primary procedure).
- Revenue codes: 42x, 43x, or 44x
- Type of bill:
  - 22X or 23X: skilled nursing facilities
  - 34X: home health agencies
  - 85X: critical access hospitals

## **Staffing Agency Rules Will be Effective September 30**

On August 28, 2022, Senate Bill (SB) 710 became law requiring supplemental health care service “staffing” agencies to register with the department if such agency provides or procures temporary health care personnel to a licensed hospital or a licensed assisted living facility, intermediate care facility, residential care facility, or skilled nursing facility.

The Supplemental Health Care Services Agency (SHCSA) Rules will become effective on Saturday, September 30, 2023, and the Department tentatively plans to begin accepting registration applications for SHCSA’s on Monday, October 2, 2023. The Department is currently working to finalize an online registration application system and will send out further guidance to agencies and health care facilities once this has been completed.

Please click [here](#) to view the summary of comments received, department responses, and any changes made to rules based on comments received. It begins on page 1554 and ends on page 1569. For a comparison of changes made, please click [here](#) to view the initial rule proposals were posted in the March 15, 2023 Missouri Register beginning on page 618 and ending on page 648. **Any questions regarding the SHCSA Regulation should be directed to Alison Dorge at [SHCSA@health.mo.gov](mailto:SHCSA@health.mo.gov).**



## CMS Releases New Dementia Care Model Guide to Better Support Caregivers

CMS has released the [Guiding an Improved Dementia Experience \(GUIDE\) Model](#) aimed at improving the way dementia care is delivered and supporting unpaid caregivers. The goal is to help those living with Alzheimer's disease and dementia remain in their homes and communities, thereby minimizing hospitalizations, post-acute and long-term care through improved care coordination and management, caregiver education and support, and respite services. This is part of the Biden Administration's goal to [increase high quality care and support caregivers](#). Through GUIDE, CMS will test an alternative payment for participants that deliver key supportive services to people with dementia.

This announcement included some basic model parameters with additional details to be included in the Request for Applications (RFA) released this fall. **CMS is accepting letters of interest for the GUIDE Model through September 15, 2023.**

- Guide participants will be Medicare Part B enrolled providers/suppliers, excluding durable medical equipment (DME) and laboratory suppliers, who are eligible to bill for Medicare Physician Fee Schedule services and who agree to meet the care delivery requirements.
- Participants who can't meet the GUIDE care delivery requirements alone are able to contract with other Medicare providers/suppliers known as "Partner Organizations" to meet the care delivery requirements.
- There are two tracks, one for established programs and one for new programs (those that do not have prior APM experience or comprehensive dementia care programs).
  - Established programs are required to have an interdisciplinary care team, including a care navigator, use a certified electronic health record platform, and meet other care delivery requirements as outlined in the RFA.
  - New programs must not be operating a comprehensive community-based DCP at the time of model announcement and will have a one-year pre-implementation period to establish their programs.
- The GUIDE model also incorporates strategies to improve health equity, a Biden Administration key priority, such as requiring participating providers to implement health-related social needs (HRSN) screenings and referrals, offering financial and technical support for new dementia care programs targeted to underserved areas, a health equity adjustment to the model's per member per month care management payment to provide additional resources to care for underserved beneficiaries.

The model will launch on July 1, 2024, and run for 8 years. CMS has also provided links to the GUIDE model [infographic](#), [fact sheet](#), and the [GUIDE webpage](#).

CMS continues to double-down on the [goal](#) to have 100 percent of people with traditional Medicare in accountable care relationships with providers who are responsible for the quality and total costs of their care by 2030. The main driver for CMS continues to be their ACO strategy and it is important for long term care providers to learn and engage.

For questions and additional information regarding AHCA/NCAL's efforts regarding value-based care and population health, please reach out to Nisha Hammel, Associate Vice President of Population Health Management at [nhammel@ahca.org](mailto:nhammel@ahca.org).

## Reminder: Compliance Deadline Approaching for Food and Nutrition Director Requirements

In August 2022, as part of the Fiscal Year 2023 Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) Prospective Payment System Final Rule (CMS 1765-F), CMS added new regulatory language related to food and nutrition services at 483.60 (a)(2)(i)(E). AHCA/NCAL previously [communicated](#) to members about these regulatory changes. This is an additional reminder as the October deadline approaches.

CMS created an additional pathway for the Director of Food and Nutrition to qualify for the position. This pathway includes:

- Having two or more years of experience in the position of Director of Food and Nutrition Services in a nursing facility setting
- Completing a course of study in food safety and management by no later than October 1, 2023. Course topics integral to managing dietary operations include, but are not limited to, foodborne illness, sanitation procedures, and food purchasing/receiving.

In addition, AHCA/NCAL wants to clarify several key points in relation to the Director of Food and Nutrition Services to assist providers with meeting this requirement:

- An assistant director, supervisor, or manager of Food and Nutrition Services or other related titles/roles can qualify as having “two or more years of experience in the position of director” if the individual’s defined role and the duties they performed in that role comply with the requirements. Titles, such as director, supervisor, or manager, are often used interchangeably and can vary.
- The requirement to have two or more years of experience in the position noted can have occurred at any point before the final rule effective date of October 1, 2022, to meet the qualification requirements.
- Facilities that would qualify as a “nursing facility setting” for the purposes of this federal requirement can vary as long as the experience supports the individual’s ability to serve in the position in the long-term care setting.

CMS has noted that the course requirements would be the equivalent of a ServSafe Food Manager certification. **Providers need to enroll in and complete the required training before October 1, 2023, to qualify for the role if using this new pathway to meet qualifications.**

## CMS Issued FY2024 SNF Final Payment Rule

CMS has issued the [final rule](#) for the skilled nursing facility (SNF) prospective payment system (PPS) fiscal year (FY) 2024 update. AHCA has provided a [summary](#) of the final rule. Please note that a member log-in is required to view the summary. Please contact the relevant subject matter expert listed in the summary with any questions. The highlights include:

- The final rule provides for a **net market basket increase for SNFs of 4.0 percent** (approximately \$1.4 billion) beginning October 1, 2023. This is 0.3 percent more than was originally proposed in April. This positive outcome is a result of the hard work of AHCA members and staff who worked on this issue year-round.
- This 4.0 percent market basket update, after rounding, reflects:
  - A \$2.2 billion increase resulting from the 6.4% net market basket update to the payment rates, which is based on a 3.0% SNF market basket increase plus a 3.6% market basket forecast error adjustment and less a 0.2% productivity adjustment; and
  - A negative 2.3%, or approximately \$789 million, decrease in the FY 2024 SNF PPS rates as a result of the second phase of the Patient Driven Payment Model (PDPM) parity adjustment recalibration.
- **Consolidated Billing:** CMS finalized, as proposed, the addition of marriage and family therapists and

mental health counselors to the list of practitioners whose services are excluded from the consolidated billing provision, effective January 1, 2024.

- **SNF Quality Reporting Program (QRP):**

- CMS is adopting two measures, removing three measures, and modifying one measure.
- This rule makes policy changes to the SNF QRP and begins public reporting of four measures.
- CMS is not adopting the CoreQ short-stay discharge measure that was proposed in April 2023.

- **SNF Value-Based Purchasing (VBP):**

- CMS is adopting four new quality measures, replacing one quality measure, and finalizing several policy changes in the SNF VBP Program.
- CMS is increasing the payback percentage policy under the SNF VBP program from the current 60% to 66% to increase bonuses provided to the high-performing, high duals SNFs beginning in the FY 2027 program year.

- **Civil Monetary Penalties:** The final rule eliminated the requirements for facilities to actively waive their right to a hearing in writing in order to receive the 35% penalty reduction and created in its place a constructive waiver process that would operate automatically when CMS has not received a timely request for a hearing.

Please contact [Martin Allen](#) with any questions.

## 2023 SLCR Annual Provider Meetings - Dates & Locations

Advanced registration is not required. There is no cost to attend any of these meetings. Please see the [flyer](#) and [agenda](#). Continue to stay tuned to the listserv for updates including handouts.

**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

## **Administrator Update Information Changes**

Missouri regulation - 19 CSR 73-2.130 Notice of Change of Contact Information and Missouri Administrator Employment – was changed 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 the online form for the Board of Nursing Home Administrators (BNHA).

**Please note:** The BNHA and the Section for Long Term Care Regulation (SLCR) each have requirements for reporting a Change of Administrator/Manager in a Long Term Care Facility. Please be sure to follow the correct requirements for each.

- For the SLCR, please submit the change of administrator or manager via a letter or by using the [online form](#). Forms/letters can be submitted via email to [LTCApplication@health.mo.gov](mailto:LTCApplication@health.mo.gov) or by mail to Department of Health and Senior Services, Section for Long-Term Care Regulation, Licensure and Certification Unit, PO Box 570, 920 Wildwood, Jefferson City, MO 65102.

## **HRSA Announces Funding to Grow Nursing Workforce**

On August 10, the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), [announced](#) more than \$100 million in awards to train more nurses and grow the nursing workforce.

The awards focus areas include:

- Helping Licensed Practical Nurses to become Registered Nurses
- Training nurses who will deliver primary care, mental health care, and maternal health care
- Addressing the bottlenecks in nurse training by supporting more nurse faculty

A full list of the awards can be found on the [HRSA site](#).

## **Listeria Outbreak Linked to Ice Cream Distributed to LTC Facilities**

The CDC is currently investigating a listeria outbreak linked to “Soft Serve on the Go” ice cream cups. One sick person in this outbreak was served this ice cream cup while residing in a long-term care (LTC) facility. Therefore, the CDC is advising LTC facilities to not serve and for individuals not to eat any flavors of “Soft Serve on the Go” ice cream cups.

If you have ordered this brand of ice cream cups, the CDC recommends that you:

Check your freezers. Listeria can survive in freezing temperatures.

Throw them away or return them to where you bought them for a refund.

If you have any questions, contact the company at 845-668-4346 or [info@SoftServeOnTheGo.com](mailto:info@SoftServeOnTheGo.com) (Monday-Friday, 9 am – 5 pm EST), or contact the CDC at [OutbreakResponse@cdc.gov](mailto:OutbreakResponse@cdc.gov)

**Call a health care provider right away if you or your residents experience any symptoms of listeria after eating this ice cream. Symptoms may include fever, muscle aches, and tiredness, as well as a headache, stiff neck, confusion, loss of balance, or seizures.**

## Emergency Protocol for Facilities

The Emergency Protocol was developed in 2007 for communication between long-term care homes and the Section for Long-Term Care Regulation (SLCR), in the event a disaster occurs that results in a loss of a necessary service (electricity, water, gas, telephone, etc.). This protocol was established to streamline communication so that homes can focus on what is most important - the safety and well-being of the residents.

This protocol ([Emergency Protocol Handout for Facilities](#)) provides the cellular telephone number corresponding to the region in which your home is located if you experience a loss in a necessary service - *for instance Air Conditioning* - that has the potential to affect resident safety or well-being. You are encouraged to contact the regional office main office telephone number during normal business hours as survey staff carry the cell phone and may be conducting a survey or inspection during working hours and may not answer immediately.

For more information regarding heat-related illness and prevention, visit the websites of [DHSS](#) or the [CDC](#).

## Governor Parson Announces Appointments to Board of Nursing Home Administrators

Governor Mike Parson has announced seven appointments to various boards and commissions. Three of the Governor's appointments were relevant to the long-term care sector, specifically the Board of Nursing Home Administrators. The new appointments to the Board of Nursing Home Administrators are Deanna Bokel, Michelle Mincks, and Libby Youse. To view the press release, please click [here](#).

## 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.

## **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**

### **AHCA Develops New Resource to Train and Educate Contracted Nursing Staff**

AHCA's Clinical Practice Committee has published a new resource to support members in training and educating contracted staff. The [Clinical Competency Profile](#) allows facilities to develop an initial competency profile of any new contract staff (agency, traveler) or licensed nurses (Registered Nurse, Licensed Practical Nurse/Licensed Vocational Nurse). Facilities can then utilize the competency profile to provide additional training and skills where needed.

### **New QIPMO Newsletter - August 2023**

#### **New QIPMO Newsletter – August 2023**

The Quality Improvement Program for Missouri (QIPMO) has published [MDS Tips and Clinical Pearls \(Volume 10, Issue 4\)](#). In this issue:

- Welcome Aboard – More Newbies!
- Hidden Gems in Long-Term Care
- ICAR Corner
- Optimizing Your Data Collection
- Keeping Your Residents Safe
- We Want You!

Please visit QIPMO's website [here](#) for this and other previous newsletters.

## **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](mailto:qualityaward@ahca.org).

## **Center of Excellence Releases New August Trainings**

The Center of Excellence for Behavioral Health in Nursing Facilities (COE-NF) released [new trainings](#) in the month of August. In addition to the resources and August 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
- Mental illness
- Regulations
- Substance use disorder (SUD)
- Trauma informed care

In addition, August 31 is International Overdose Awareness Day, and the COE-NF has put together specific resources related to overdose prevention measures and opioids:

- [Naloxone in Nursing Facilities: How It Saves Lives](#)
- [Medication Risk Alert: Opioids and Benzodiazepines](#)
- [Language Matters](#)
- [SAMHSA: Opioid Overdose Toolkit](#)

Upcoming trainings:

- [Wednesday, September 13 at 1 pm CST: Trauma Informed Care Training – Part 3: Trauma Screening and Trauma Assessment – Why the Difference Matters](#)

- [Thursday, September 21 at 1 pm CST: Trauma Informed Care Training – Part 4: Grounding as an Essential Strategy to Calm an Activated Nervous System](#)

Other links:

- [The Center of Excellence Fact Sheet](#)
- [July 2023 Newsletter](#)
- [Sign up for the Monthly Newsletter](#)

## **COE-NF Launches Behavioral Health Action Network**

Beginning September 2023, the Center of Excellence for Behavioral Health in Nursing Facilities (COE-NF) will host a series of six one-hour monthly cohort learning sessions. There will be five regional cohort learning groups, each one covering a multi-state region of the county.

Register for the opportunity to learn industry best practices from other nursing facilities and behavioral health subject matter experts. With the support of COE-NF behavioral health specialists, you will be able to implement the learnings in your facility.

Topics in the series include:

- Screening for mental health and substance use
- Effective communication skills
- Incorporating behavioral health into individualized assessments
- Deescalating behavior

To learn more and register, visit the [COE-NF Behavioral Health Action Network](#). Click [here](#) to view the session dates and registration information for Missouri.

## **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](mailto: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 [winterbower@missouri.edu](mailto:winterbower@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](http://www.hqin.org) or contact Judy Carte, [jcarte@hqi.solutions](mailto: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.

## Membership Updates & Services

### September 2023 - Employee Recognition Program

In the month of September, MHCA will recognize **Housekeeping and Laundry 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@mhca.org), 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.

## 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](mailto:Michelle.Walters@mhca.org) or [Teresa Baysinger](mailto:Teresa.Baysinger@mhca.org).

[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.*

## Annual Award Winners

### **Congratulations to the MHCA Award Winners!**

MHCA facilities nominate individuals whose commitment to their work, colleagues and residents were a true inspiration to their team throughout the year. We know it is tough to narrow down who to nominate for these awards when each of nominee goes above and beyond to care for and protect their residents each and every day. EVERYONE deserves to be honored and recognized for their dedication.

Congratulations to all of the District level winners and to our State Winners!

### **CNA of the Year**

District 1 – Cindy Aukerman – Monterey Park  
District 2 – Thea Hanway – Tiffany Heights  
District 3 – Shanika Whitfield – The Gables at Brady Circle  
District 4 – Hope Bohannon – Webco Manor  
District 5 – Melissa Taylor – Lutheran Home Cape Girardeau  
District 6 – Teresa Shaw – Loch Haven  
District 7 – Rosary Zalazinski – Missouri Veterans Home St. James

**State CNA of the Year winner - Melissa Taylor from Lutheran Home Cape Girardeau!**

### **Employee of the Year**

District 1 – Danielle Semler – Ignite Medical Resort St. Mary's  
District 2 – Maria Tracy – Missouri Veterans Home Cameron  
District 3 – Letitia Redden – Missouri Veterans Home St. Louis  
District 4 – Jaylon Taylor – Missouri Veterans Home Mt. Vernon  
District 5 – Rhonda Gray – The Villas of Jackson  
District 6 – Lea Apel – Loch Haven  
District 7 – Kimberly Howell – StoneBridge Oak Tree

**State Employee of the Year winner - Jaylon Taylor from Missouri Veterans Home Mt. Vernon!**

### **David Duncan Administrator of the Year**

District 1 – Ashlee Lopez – Norterre Estoria  
District 2 – David Hibler – Missouri Veterans Home Cameron  
District 3 – Leonard Rhine – Missouri Veterans Home St. Louis  
District 4 – Jessica Saad – Creekside at Elfindale  
District 5 – David Moody – River Oaks Care Center  
District 6 – Katlind (katelind) Murry – Knox County Nursing Home  
District 7 – Ashley Drewel – Heisinger Bluffs

**State David Duncan Administrator of the Year winner - Katlind Murry from Knox County Nursing Home!**

**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



## Education Sessions, Meetings & Events

### Workshops & Seminars - In-Seat

[CMT/Insulin Certification Workshop](#)

September 12 - November 14 (every Tuesday evening) | In-Peron Hybrid / Jefferson City

[Medicare from Start to Finish](#)

September 13 | MHCA Office | Jefferson City

[RAI Process from Start to Finish](#)

October 17-18 | Courtyard by Marriott | 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