

January 19, 2024

## **Clarification Regarding NHSN 2023 Annual Survey Requirements**

Nursing facilities may have received a recent email from the NHSN stating they are required to complete the [2023 annual facility survey](#) by **March 1, 2024**, or they may see an interruption in their service in the NHSN.

The CDC clarified that the 2023 annual facility survey is only required for providers who are reporting into the HAI modules (UTI/MDRO/CDI/PPM). Therefore, providers who submit data outside of these modules (i.e., COVID-10, annual Health Care Provider Influenza Vaccination data) are NOT required to complete the survey.

**([READ MORE](#))**

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## **CDC NHSN Updates Several LTCF Resource Pages**

The CDC has posted several new resources to the following resource pages for the NHSN:

- [MDRO & CDI](#)
- [UTI](#)
- [Prevention Process Measures](#)

Providers utilizing the above components should review the updated materials to avoid errors in reporting. In addition, the CDC/NHSN has also updated the [COVID-19 Vaccination Data FAQs](#) page.

For additional questions or concerns, please contact the [NHSN Help Desk](#) or email AHCA at [covid19@ahca.org](mailto:covid19@ahca.org) or [regulatory@ahca.org](mailto:regulatory@ahca.org).

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## **CDC and CMS Present Stories From the Field: Immunization Strategies for LTC**

The CDC and CMS will host a [webinar](#) on **Wednesday, January 31, 2024, at 1 PM CST** regarding strategies to increase immunization rates in long term care. Please click here to [register](#).

This webinar is geared toward nursing home leaders, medical directors, directors of nursing, and infection preventionists interested in collaborating with their staff, residents, and families to maximize COVID-19 vaccination rates at their facilities.

During this webinar, attendees will hear directly from nursing home teams that have developed successful strategies to overcome COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy and fatigue, schedule onsite vaccination clinics, and address staff turnover to ensure residents receive timely vaccinations.

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## **CMS Posts Draft MDS 3.0 Item Sets Version 1.19.1**

The draft MDS 3.0 Item Sets version (v)1.19.1 and Item Matrix are now available in the Downloads section on the [Minimum Data Set \(MDS\) 3.0 Resident Assessment Instrument \(RAI\) Manual](#) page. The MDS Item Sets v1.19.1 will be effective beginning October 1, 2024.

There are three changes noted:

1. Section GG: Removal of Column 1, Discharge Goal from the Section GG – Functional Abilities – Admission items under GG0130/GG0170
2. Section N: New item under N0415, High-Risk Drug Classes: Use and Indication, N0415K Anticonvulsant
3. Section O: New item O0350, Resident’s COVID-19 Vaccination is Up to Date

For additional questions or concerns, please email [regulatory@ahca.org](mailto:regulatory@ahca.org).

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## **CMS Updates SNF Cost Report Use Files to Include 2020-2021 Data**

CMS recently updated the [SNF Cost report public use files \(PUF\)](#) with refreshed 2011-2019 data and new data for 2020-2021. These files were developed using the Healthcare Cost Report Information System (HCRIS) to provide external and internal stakeholders with a curated set of variables in a user-friendly format (e.g., more descriptive variable names).

The data does not contain all measures reported in the HCRIS, but rather includes a subset of commonly used measures. Each PUF is organized at the facility level and includes select measures such as facility characteristics, utilization measures, cost and charges by cost center (in total and for Medicare), Medicare settlement data, and financial statement data.

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## **Reimbursement Update**

As previously reported, CMS has approved the State Plan Amendment (SPA) for the \$10 PPD rate increase and the \$.87 increase to the VBP incentive effective July 1,

2023. Mo Health Net Division (MHD) is working to get its emergency regulation filed and will begin going through its internal processes in order to timely institute the increases.

Please note, upon CMS approval of a SPA, it typically takes the state between 4-6 weeks to process the increase. An emergency regulation must be filed and approved. Once the emergency regulation takes effect, which is approximately 10 days after it is filed, MHD can begin working on rate letters and other processes it must follow before paying the new rates. We anticipate facilities will receive their rate letters and begin being paid their new rate around the first half of February.

Once facilities begin receiving their new rate, then MHD will begin to work on the retro payment back to July 1, 2023. We anticipate facilities will see the retro payment within 2 – 4 weeks after the new rate is paid. Please note, and as further explained below, the state will utilize the retro payment for the 7/1/23 \$10 PPD and VBP increase to offset any recoupments necessary as a result of decreases to rates for the semi-annual CMI/VBP adjustments on 1/1/23, 7/1/23 and 1/1/24.

As a reminder, MHD is waiting to release the January 1, 2024 rates for the semi-annual CMI/VBP adjustment and will combine the 1/1/24 rate adjustment notice in conjunction with the \$10 PPD and VBP increase notice letter at the same time. This should result in a smoother process for not only the state, but also facilities.

Once the 1/1/24 rate letter is released it will be inclusive of the \$10 PPD and VBP increase. As stated above, the state believes it will be able to process the new rate around the first of February. Therefore, any adjustments upward or downward as a result of the 1/1/24 CMI/VBP will be part of the retro mass adjusted payment of the \$10 and increase in VBP incentive payment. Again, we will keep you updated as we learn more.

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## **Upcoming Webinar: OSHA Recordkeeping and New Reporting Requirements**

providers are already required to maintain OSHA 300 Logs, Form 301, and Form 300A and submit 300A summary data before March 2 each year. The NEW requirement for employers with 100 or more employees adds additional information to be submitted: OSHA 300 logs and Form 301 (incident reports).

AHCA/NCAL is hosting an upcoming [webinar](#) with Brad Hunt, Chief Risk Officer at Levery Insurance Group on **February 13 at 2 PM CST**. Hunt, who is an expert on OSHA standards, will explain the OSHA recordkeeping requirements and prepare members to meet the deadline and maintain compliance with the standard. He will also share best practices and how to avoid common mistakes when submitting this required information. Please click [here](#) to register.

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## **OSHA Recordkeeping and Reporting: A Guide to Determination**

OSHA recordkeeping process and reporting requirements are required components for certain employers. This article will cover the determination behind the OSHA Recordkeeping and Reporting requirements, helping LTC facilities navigate these

requirements more effectively. It will specifically address the determination of work-relatedness for injuries and illnesses, such as COVID-19, in the process of identifying recorded or reported events.

#### Understand the Difference between “Recording” and “Reporting”

It is very important to understand the difference between OSHA recording and reporting. The understanding lies in the focus and the nature of incidents they address.

OSHA **recording** involves the systematic documentation of all work-related injuries and illnesses maintained by employers to track and analyze patterns for internal safety improvement. This process includes the use of forms like OSHA Form 300, 301, and 300A.

**([READ MORE](#))**

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### **ONC to Host Webinar on Electronic Information Sharing Regulations for Long-Term and Post-Acute Care Providers**

On Thursday, February 22, 2024, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) [Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology](#) (ONC) will be providing a [free webinar](#) for long-term and post-acute care providers. Specifically, it will cover information sharing and how to navigate federal information blocking regulations.

Providers can [register now](#) for this timely webinar designed specifically for long-term and post-acute providers. The webinar is being hosted by the [LTPAC HIT Collaborative](#), of which AHCA/NCAL is a member.

ONC speakers will provide both an overview of the regulations and address common questions and issues by identifying relevant parts of the regulations and highlight additional resources. By the end of this session, attendees will have a better understanding of the information blocking regulations, how the regulations affect the sharing of electronic health information, and why they are important to providers.

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### **Only 6 Days Left Until the 2024 Deadline!**

The deadline to submit a 2024 National Quality Award application is next week, **Thursday, January 25, 2024, at 7 pm CST**. In this [video message](#), AHCA/NCAL President and CEO Mark Parkinson urges members to continue their journey towards excellence in 2024 by applying.

And if you have not already done so, take advantage of these free resources listed below.

**([READ MORE](#))**

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### **COMRU Update**

The online application link (Level 1 form/Level of Care) for applications submitted prior to 07/16/2023 (green link) **will no longer be available after 02/01/2024.**

**Application started prior to 07-16-2023**

SNFs will want to ensure they have printed or saved a copy of the processed Level 1 form/Level of Care form and Level 2 screening (if applicable) for resident records as these are required per regulation and may be requested during the state survey process.

- Additionally, please remember that all processed applications are to be deleted from the COMRU online application system 60 days after completion.

Should you have any questions, please contact COMRU via email ([COMRU@health.mo.gov](mailto:COMRU@health.mo.gov)).

Also, mark your calendars for this upcoming MHCA webinar on COMRU! *COMRU: What You Need to Know* is a FREE webinar for MHCA members and will be held on **January 23 from 2-3 pm**. Ammanda Ott, Specialist/Supervisor of COMRU, will share the top reasons for corrections and returns of applications; how to correctly check the status of an online application; and answer any other questions.

Please click [here](#) to register.

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## **Candida Auris Health Advisory and Informational Webinar**

Please take the time to review this [Candida Auris Information Sheet](#) from DHSS. As a reminder, *Candida auris* (*C. auris*) is considered an urgent threat according to the CDC. Should you have any questions, please contact the DHSS Bureau of Communicable Disease Control and Prevention at 573-751-6113 or 800-392-0272 (24/7) or [info@health.mo.gov](mailto:info@health.mo.gov).

The Healthcare-Associated Infections/ Antimicrobial Resistance (HAI/AR) Program at DHSS held a webinar on Wednesday, December 20 to outline recommended actions resulting from recent cases of *C. auris* detected in Missouri. The informational webinar on the emerging *C. auris* situation in MO has been posted along with the PowerPoint presentations. The recording and PowerPoints can be found here: <https://health.mo.gov/data/hai/index.php> under the heading “*Candida auris* Informational Webinar”.

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## **Senate Aging Committee Hearing on Assisted Living: Information for Members**

U.S. Senator Casey, chair of the Senate Aging Committee, announced earlier this week that the committee will be holding a [hearing](#) focused on assisted living next Thursday, January 25th. The hearing was spurred by recent investigative reports in the *Washington Post* and *New York Times*, regarding elopements in memory care and the cost of assisted living/long term care, respectively. The last hearing that focused on assisted living by the Senate Aging Committee was over 20 years ago in 2003.

**(READ MORE)**

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## Prioritizing Infection Prevention and Control in a Post-Covid-19 World

Mark your calendars for this webinar on March 20, 2024, from 1 – 2 pm CST where practical strategies will be given to support the assisted living preventionist role and take infection control prevention practices to the next level. Please click [here](#) to register. The cost for AHCA/NCAL members is \$25 and for non-members, it is \$50.

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## Assisted Living Webinar Series - The New Generation and the Challenges they Face

Assisted Living is going through a period of change. Is your facility ready? This webinar series, led by Speaker Barbara Speedling, will discuss topics including caring for the new generation in assisted living, overcoming social isolation and loneliness, preventing resident-to-resident aggression, and leadership in a transformative culture. AHCA/NCAL members can purchase individual webinars for \$25 each, or bundle and save by purchasing all four webinars now at the discounted rate of \$90.

- Wednesday, April 17 at 1 pm CST – [Caring for a New Generation in Assisted Living](#)
  - Wednesday, June 12 at 1 pm CST – [All by Myself: Overcoming Social Isolation and Loneliness in Assisted Living](#)
  - Wednesday, August 14 at 1 pm CST – [Love Your Neighbor: Preventing Resident-to-Resident Aggression](#)
  - Wednesday, October 16 at 1 pm CST – [Metamorphosis: Leadership in a Transformative Culture](#)
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## The Center of Excellence for Behavior Health in Nursing Facilities

Beginning September 2023, the Center of Excellence for Behavioral Health in Nursing Facilities (COE-NF) will host six (6) one-hour monthly cohort sessions. **These sessions are FREE to attend!** Join them 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. The last two cohort sessions are:

**(READ MORE)**

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## CNA Testing Events

All regional dates are viewable on the online calendar at <https://mo.tmutest.com/calendar>. **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.

**PLEASE NOTE:** There have been changes to scheduling tests through TMU and to the paperwork for RN Observers. Please reach out to Headmaster with questions. [missouri@hdmaster.com](mailto:missouri@hdmaster.com).

Knowledge and Skill testing is available on January 22<sup>nd</sup> and February 12<sup>th</sup> at MHCA. Please contact [shellie@mohealthcare.com](mailto:shellie@mohealthcare.com) to reserve a time slot.

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