



Missouri Health Care Association

Weekly Update

January 26, 2024

A Roadmap to OSHA Requirements = A Vital Guide for Long-Term Care Providers and Upcoming Webinar

Understanding and adhering to [Occupational Health and Safety Administration \(OSHA\) standards](#) is a critical responsibility for long term care providers. To assist in this crucial task, AHCA/NCAL has released "[A Roadmap to OSHA Requirements](#)", a comprehensive resource designed to simplify [OSHA regulations](#) for providers.

This roadmap is a practical guide, offering detailed insights into relevant OSHA standards and how they intersect with CDC guidelines and CMS requirements. The roadmap doesn't just cover existing regulations; it also provides previews of upcoming OSHA changes that could impact long term care. This preview is essential for staying abreast of future regulatory requirements and maintaining a safe environment for your staff.

[\(READ MORE\)](#)

Navigating "Safety" in Long-Term Care Facilities: Separating the Roles of OSHA and the Life Safety Code

OSHA's regulations overlap with many CMS and state requirements in various areas, but perhaps the most common crossover occurs between certain OSHA regulations and the Life Safety Code (LSC). A common area of overlap is Electrical Safety.

[Electrical Safety – Overview:](#)

[\(READ MORE\)](#)

Tools and Trainings for Life Safety Code Compliance

The Life Safety Code is a complex document, and managing life safety compliance can be a complicated task for any provider. An effective compliance program requires personnel with specialized knowledge in numerous life safety concepts and components. Requirements around egress, fire alarm systems, fire sprinkler systems,

smoke barrier wall assemblies, and fire doors are just a few of the many survey focus points. The challenges resulting from staff turnover can compound the difficulty of maintaining compliance and survey readiness. Fortunately, several resources are available to assist providers in obtaining the necessary knowledge to properly apply the Life Safety Code and be survey ready.

AHCA has developed two webinars focused on life safety, which are FREE for members. The first is an [introduction for new Facility Directors](#) while the [second provides tips for navigating some of the most frequently cited life safety tags](#).

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Joint Employer Rule Overview: What You Need to Know

Last year, the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) issued the [final joint employer rule](#) that broadens the NLRB's definition of employer. It rescinds a [2020 final rule](#) issued by the previous NLRB. **Employers should prepare to comply with the new rule effective February 26, 2024.**

As a provider, it could potentially increase liability and exposure for long term care facilities if they utilize staffing agency or contract workers. This rule could also impact employees of a staffing company and/or contractors who are either unionized, take steps to unionize, or who are non-supervisory employees (and nonetheless covered by Section 7 of the National Labor Relations Act even if not unionized).

AHCA/NCAL has provided a [summary](#) for its members with additional, vital information. Please note that an AHCA/NCAL member log-in is required to view the summary.

Upcoming COMRU Training

The Central Office Medical Review Unit (COMRU) is hosting a **FREE** webinar concerning the online Level 1 Pre-Admission Screening and Resident Review (PASRR) application process via Webex on **February 8, 2024, from 10:00 - 11:00 AM**. This webinar will cover the following topics:

- common errors requiring applications to be returned,
- what triggers a Level 2 screening on the application, and
- how to check the status of an online application.

To register to attend, please click [here](#). After you complete the registration, then, the week of the webinar, a meeting invitation will be forwarded to your email address.

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.

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.

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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.

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”.

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.

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:

[\(READ MORE\)](#)

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.

Knowledge and Skill testing is available on January 22nd and February 12th at MHCA. Please contact shellie@mohealthcare.com to reserve a time slot.

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