

February 9, 2024

## **Payroll-Based Journal (PBJ) Submission Deadline Reminder**

Nursing homes are required to electronically submit direct care staffing information to the Payroll-Based Journal (PBJ) system by the end of the 45<sup>th</sup> calendar day (11:59 PM Eastern Standard Time) after the last day in each fiscal quarter to be considered timely. **The PBJ data for 10/1/23 through 12/31/23 is due February 14, 2024.**

It is recommended to submit PBJ data as soon as possible to avoid delays. You should run staffing reports in CASPER prior to the submission deadline to ensure the accuracy and completeness of submissions. And the Final File Validation Report verifies that the submission was successful.

More information about PBJ can be found on the following webpages:

- [CMS PBJ Webpage](#)
- [PBJ Reference Manuals](#)
- [PBJ Training](#)

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## **SNF Quality Reporting Program (QRP) Submission Deadline Reminder**

SNFs are required to report data to meet the SNF QRP requirements. The submission deadline for the SNF QRP is no later than 11:59 p.m. on **February 15, 2024** and the following data must be submitted:

- MDS data for 7/1/23 through 9/30/23;
- NHSN data for COVID-19 Vaccination Coverage Among Healthcare Personnel for 7/1/23 through 9/30/23;

The Minimum Data Set (MDS) 3.0 must be transmitted to CMS through the Internet Quality Improvement and Evaluation System (iQIES). Data for the NHSN measures must be submitted to the CDC. No additional data submission is required for the claims-based measures.

As a reminder, it is recommended that providers run applicable MDS reports prior to each quarterly reporting deadline to ensure that all required data has been submitted.

Swingtech sends informational messages to SNFs that are not meeting APU thresholds on a quarterly basis ahead of each submission deadlines. If you need to add or change the email addresses to which these messages are sent, please email [QRPHelp@swingtech.com](mailto:QRPHelp@swingtech.com) and be sure to include your facility name and CMS Certification Number (CCN) along with any requested email updates.

More information about SNF QRP can be found on the following webpages:

- [CMS SNF QRP Data Submission Deadlines webpage](#)
- [CMS SNF QRP Help webpage](#)
- [CMS SNF QRP Measures and Technical Information webpage](#)
- [CMS SNF QRP Training Webpage](#)

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## **CMS to Pause CBR and Pepper Reports Through Fall 2024**

CMS will temporarily pause distributing Comparative Billing Reports (CBRs) and Program to Evaluate Payment Patterns Electronic Reports (PEPPERS). This pause will allow CMS to improve and update the program and reporting system and will remain in effect through the fall of 2024.

Due to the importance of these reports, CMS is dedicated to enhancing the quality and accessibility of the reports. CMS will release a Request for Information (RFI) to obtain information from providers about how the program can better serve the sector.

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

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## **New CPT Codes for RSV Vaccine Administration**

Last week, CMS [updated](#) a prior announcement from December 3, 2023. The agency has retroactively added 2 new CPT codes for respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) vaccine administration to the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule files. This is effective for dates of service on and after October 6, 2023:

- 96380 – Short descriptor: Admn rsv monoc antib im cnsl
- 96381 – Short descriptor: Admn rsv monoc antib im njx

The announcement also provides information on [RSV shot](#) beneficiary education for resident and patients.

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## **CMS to Host Medicare Cost Report E-Filing System Webinar**

CMS is conducting a [webinar](#) for Medicare Part A providers and entities that file cost reports for providers on **Wednesday, February 14 from 12-1:30 pm CST**. This webinar will discuss new and upcoming functionality for Medicare Part A cost reports in the Medicare Cost Report E-Filing (MCRF0) system, including how to:

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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 soon. We believe this may be mid to late February.

Once facilities begin receiving their new rate, 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. 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. We will keep you updated as we learn more.

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## **Why Sprinklers Keep Leading to Survey Tags**

Since August 2013, CMS has required all regulated nursing homes to be fully sprinklered. This has resulted in a decline in serious healthcare facility fires, along with the injuries and fatalities that can be associated with them. However, the increase in sprinkler systems has accompanied an increase in life safety deficiencies. CMS K-tags related to sprinkler system design, components, inspection, testing, and maintenance are consistently in the top five K-tag findings list nationally.

There are two commonly cited K-tags that address sprinkler systems. K351 addresses sprinkler system installation and K353 addresses sprinkler system maintenance. Common survey findings related to sprinkler system installation (K351) include:

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## Empowering LTC Providers in the Fight Against Respiratory Diseases with #GetVaccinated Resources

In the ever-evolving battle against respiratory diseases, LTC providers play a pivotal role in safeguarding the health of our most vulnerable populations. As rates of respiratory diseases remain high across the country, your ongoing efforts in encouraging vaccinations among residents and staff are more crucial than ever.

Residents in LTC communities are among those at the highest risk of severe disease and illness from common respiratory viruses, including the flu, RSV, and COVID-19. The good news is that safe, effective, and accessible vaccines are available to protect these individuals from serious illness or even death.

[\(READ MORE\)](#)

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## AHCA/NCAL to Host LTC Workshop Webinar Series

This year, AHCA/NCAL will hold a [webinar series](#) focused on workforce-related matters impacting long term care (LTC) providers across the country. This series will focus on issues including:

- Career ladders,
- Getting more youth interested in the LTC field, and
- Hiring immigrants and refugees.

During this series, attendees will hear directly from provider members – including AHCA/NCAL workforce committee members – and other experts on these matters and best practices from their experiences. It will also be an opportunity to get pressing questions answered. The first webinar in this series will occur on **Friday, March 1 at 2 pm CST** and is entitled “*Building the Path: Creating Careers in Long Term Care*”. Please click [here](#) to register.

Information will be shared on the other webinars throughout the year. For questions about this webinar series, please contact AHCA’s AVP of Workforce and Constituency Services, [Dana Ritchie](#), and AHCA’s Senior Director of Quality Improvement, [Urvi Patel](#).

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## Save the Date for Careers in Aging Month

In the past, AHCA/NCAL and providers across the country have celebrated Careers in Aging Week to bring recognition to the numerous career opportunities available in long term care and aging services and to celebrate current caregivers in the industry. In 2024, they are extending the celebration, and the month of March will now be dedicated to Careers in Aging month! You can join AHCA/NCAL in promoting these rewarding careers for the month-long observation.

Working in long term care provides endless opportunities, including the chance to serve one of our nation’s most vulnerable, special populations. The focus in these roles is on treating the whole person, not just a medical condition, and there is amazing potential for career advancement. Along with these benefits and more,

working in the long term care community truly improves the lives of millions in positive and supportive work environments. A career in long term care brings a sense of purpose, turns residents and caregivers into family, and can be a great steppingstone to kickstart a successful career in health care.

During Careers in Aging Month, AHCA/NCAL will share stories, resources, and more. You can help them spread the word by retweeting on Twitter or sharing their posts on Facebook and using the hashtag #CareersinCaring. Learn more about [how you can participate](#) or visit [www.careersinaging.com](http://www.careersinaging.com) for more resources.

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## **The Center of Excellence for Behavior Health in Nursing Facilities**

The COE-NF also released new trainings for the month of February that offers Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) credits. The COE-NF also 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.

[Upcoming February Training Sessions:](#)

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

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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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## **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 February 12 and March 11 at MHCA. Please contact [shellie@mohealthcare.com](mailto:shellie@mohealthcare.com) to reserve a time slot.

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