



Missouri Health Care Association

Weekly Update

April 12, 2024

2024 SLCR Annual Provider Meeting Topics

The Section for Long-Term Care Regulation (SLCR) is in the planning phase to host in-person provider meetings in all regions this year and is considering the best topics to provide the most beneficial information. The SLCR wants to hear from you about what LTC related topics and information you believe would be helpful and educational. Please take a moment to complete this [one-question survey](#) by May 10, 2024

FY2024 SNF Medicaid Reimbursement Update

The new SNF Medicaid rates reflecting the \$10 PPD increase and \$.87 VBP incentive are now begin paid. As previously reported, all Medicaid days billed before March 6 were paid at the old rate on March 19. The difference in the old rate and new 1/1/24 and 7/1/23 rates for all Medicaid days paid at the old rate will be included in your retro payment.

The retro payment for any increases you received to your rate on 7/1/23 and 1/1/24 is still on track to be paid on April 25.

If you still have a recoupment owed to the state from a reduction to your rate as a result of a decrease in your 1/1/23, 7/1/23 and/or 1/1/24 CMI/VBP incentive, MO HealthNet will be working directly with the facility and should already have been in touch with you, to work out a fair recoupment process for the facilities in that situation.

State Makes Final Decision on PDPM CMI Model

As you will recall, CMS is requiring all states to transition to PDPM from RUGS for calculating CMI. Missouri will be transitioning to PDPM effective July 1, 2024. Since this announcement last summer, we have been working with MO HealthNet, along with our consultant FORVIS, to determine what Missouri's PDPM model should look like. After months of meetings and discussions, the state has decided to implement a PDPM model that utilizes the Nursing Component only.

After analyzing the data, there was little to no difference when using the Nursing Component of PDPM versus incorporating in other components of PDPM into model. The state also felt this was the least complicated approach to transition to PDPM for our facilities. MO HealthNet has committed to working with us in the future and to continue evaluating the data, after implementing this version of PDPM, to determine

whether or not adding in any other components of PDPM is necessary to more accurately capture acuities. Most states that have transitioned to PDPM have transitioned in this same manner – using the PDPM Nursing Component only.

It is our understanding that the resident listings for 1/1/24 and 4/1/24 will be released soon and it will be announced with that release that the PDPM model will be based on the Nursing Component only. We are working to develop an education session for members on this topic. More information on education sessions will come soon.

COVID Prevention and Response Phase III

The Department of Health and Senior Services COVID Prevention and Response Project has started Phase III! As has been reported, this final Phase will include FREE PPE items shipped directly to all Missouri Skilled Nursing Facilities, Intermediate Care Facilities, Assisted Living Facilities and Residential Care Facilities.

IMPORTANT: Shipment of the PPE kits from Concordance Healthcare has begun!

Shipments will be coming to facilities directly from Concordance Healthcare via UPS. Signatures will be required by the UPS driver, so please alert your office staff of the expected delivery. This is a one-time shipment of PPE, which is being sent automatically to your facility.

The shipment will contain nine (9) boxes of:

- 1 case Small Nitrile Gloves (10 Boxes of 250 gloves)
- 1 case Medium Nitrile Gloves (10 Boxes of 250 gloves)
- 1 case Large Nitrile Gloves (10 Boxes of 250 gloves)
- 1 case Extra Large Nitrile Gloves (10 Boxes of 250 gloves)
- 1 case Surgical Masks (300)
- 1 case N95 Respirator Mask (200)
- 1 case Large Isolation Gowns (10 Packs of 10 gowns)
- 1 case Extra Large Isolation Gowns (10 Packs of 10 gowns)
- 1 case ACON COVID Test Kits (12 boxes of 24 tests)

If your facility is registered as having over 100 beds, you shall receive two kits, for a total of 18 boxes of PPE.

These medical items will assist all long-term care facilities in providing needed infection protection for residents, staff, and visitors. As always should you have any questions regarding this project, please contact

mary.menges@health.mo.gov.

REMINDER: CDC NHSN Open Office Hours for Annual Health Care Personnel Influenza Vaccine Reporting

The CDC has scheduled an upcoming open office hour for reporting the annual Healthcare Personnel Influenza Vaccination Data (registration is required). **Facilities are required to report this data by May 15, 2024, under the Skilled Nursing Facility Quality Reporting Program (SNF QRP) or may face a two percent reduction to their Medicare annual payment update for FY 2025.**

The next upcoming open office hours is [Thursday April 25, 2024 at 2pm EST](#). Pre-registration is required.

REMINDER on Reporting Financial Exploitation of the Elderly

The Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) investigates abuse, neglect, and exploitation of vulnerable individuals 60 and older and people with disabilities between 18 and 59, whether residing in the community or in long-term care facilities. Missouri's Adult Abuse and Neglect Hotline responds to reports of abuse, bullying, neglect, and financial exploitation.

IMPORTANT: If you suspect someone is being abused, bullied, neglected, or exploited, call the hotline at 800-392-0210. The hotline operates 365 days per year from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. People who are deaf or hard of hearing may utilize Relay Missouri by calling 1-800-735-2466. Due to the possible need for mandated reporters to report a concern to the Central Registry Unit (CRU) during the hours of 8:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. (when the hotline is not in operation), Online Reporting is available for use.

Remember that Financial Exploitation occurs when a person commits the crime of financial exploitation of an elderly or disabled person if such person knowingly and by deception, intimidation, or force obtains control over the elderly or disabled person's property with the intent to permanently deprive the elderly or disabled person of the use, benefit or possession of his or her property thereby benefiting such person or detrimentally affecting the elderly or disabled person ([570.145, RSMo](#)).

If the alleged victim lives in a long-term care facility, the department's Division of Regulation and Licensure staff will conduct an investigation. Complaint investigations are handled in accordance with state statute and long-term care reports or complaints are generally initiated within 24 hours.

OSHA Issues New Rule on Employee Representation During OSHA Inspection

Recently, OSHA issued its [Final Rule](#) "clarifying" that third-party, non-employees may accompany the OSHA Compliance Safety and Health Officer (CSHO) during the walkthrough inspection of a workplace. The new rule, which goes into effect on May 31, 2024, has caused concern for employers, but much of the impact will depend on how OSHA chooses to implement the regulation and on a CSHO's individual judgement.

As a background, OSHA allows employees to have a representative during the walkthrough inspection of a workplace. Typically, that representative is an employee, but here, the discussion is about whether a non-employee may act as the employee's representative. The old version of OSHA's employee representation regulation began with the premise that an employee representative "shall be an employee(s) of the employer." 29 CFR 1908(c). But it also allowed for participation of a "third party who is not an employee of the employer (such as an industrial hygienist or a safety engineer)" if that person was "reasonably necessary." 29 CFR 1908(c). The provision was frequently interpreted to limit third-party involvement to expert industrial hygienists and safety engineers, and as such, CSHOs rarely used the provision.

[\(READ MORE\)](#)

CMS Enhances MA Beneficiary Protections

CMS recently released the [Contract Year \(CY\) 2025 Medicare Advantage and Part D Final Rule](#), which finalized revisions to policies governing Medicare Advantage

(MA), Part D, Medicare Cost Plans, and the Program for All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE).

AHCA/NCAL successfully advocated for specific policies within the rule to help ensure individuals in a MA plan have access to high quality care and timely, medically necessary services. These include:

([READ MORE](#))

USCIS Increases Automatic Extension of Certain Employment Authorization Documents to Improve Access to Work Permits

The United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) recently [announced](#) a [temporary final rule \(TFR\)](#) to increase the automatic extension period for certain employment authorization documents (EADs) from up to 180 days to up to 540 days. The temporary measure announced will prevent already work-authorized noncitizens from having their employment authorization and documentation lapse while waiting for USCIS to adjudicate their pending EAD renewal applications and better ensure continuity of operations for US employers.

This temporary measure will apply to [eligible applicants](#) who timely and properly filed an EAD renewal application on or after October 27, 2023, if the application is still pending on the date of publication in the Federal Register. The TFR will also apply to eligible EAD renewal applicants who timely and properly file their Form I-765 application during a 540-day period that begins with the rule's publication in the Federal Register.

As part of this TFR, USCIS is soliciting feedback from the public that would inform potential future regulatory action. For more information, visit the [Automatic Employment Authorization Document Extension page](#).

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 Information From TMU/Headmaster

Below are the links for the CNA test Candidate Handbook and the Mock Skills. If you have students in your facility who are ready to test with TMU/Headmaster, please make sure they have access to both documents. It is very difficult for a student to pass without reviewing these documents. These are updated often.

- <https://health.mo.gov/safety/cnaregistry/pdf/missouri-candidate-handbook.pdf>
 - <https://www.hdmaster.com/testing/cnatesting/missouri/forms/MO%20MOCK%20SKILLS%207.2023.pdf>
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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.

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 April 8 and April 15 at MHCA. Please contact shellie@mohealthcare.com to reserve a time slot.

HQIN Strategies to Use During Your Nursing Home Stand-Up Meetings

The Health Quality Innovation Network's (HQIN) free 9-week education series is [now available for download on their Resource Center](#). You can download the topic(s) that you want to focus on in your facility or download the entire series and work through all nine weeks.

The five short, concentrated evidence-based talking points each week can easily be included in daily stand-up meetings to increase staff knowledge on relevant topics. The program is designed to empower nursing home staff with practical knowledge to foster a safer environment and decrease preventable emergency room visits and hospital readmissions.

Please [share your experience](#) in using the content and materials offered in the Nursing Home Stand-Up Series.

The Center Of Excellence For Behavior Health in Nursing Facilities

The COE-NF released [new education events for April](#) 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.

The COE-NF also has [on-demand training videos](#), which includes bite-sized learnings and longer video modules with pre/posttests on topics such as Schizophrenia, Bipolar Disorder, Mental Health, Substance Use, Trauma Informed Care, and Alcohol Use Disorder. They also offer a wide array of resources on a multitude of mental health topics via the [resource hub](#).

Upcoming April Events:

- April 16 from 12:30 – 2 pm CST – [Building a Better Suicide Risk Assessment: The Nuts and Bots of the Columbia Protocol C-SSRS](#)
- April 18 from 1 – 2 pm CST – [A Facility Assessment Approach to Behavioral Health](#)
- April 19 from 12 – 12:30 CST – [Substance Use Disorder \(SUD\) in Nursing Facility Residents Office Hours](#)

- April 23 from 1 – 2 pm CST – [Preventing Implicit \(Unconscious\) Bias from Undermining Resident Care: Strategies and Opportunities](#)
- April 24 from 1 – 1:30 pm CST – [An Introduction to Trauma Informed Care Approaches](#)
- April 25 from 1 – 1:30 pm CST – [Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services \(CLAS\) Implementation for Behavioral Health Equity in Nursing Facilities](#)
- April 26 from 10 am – 3:30 pm CST – [Mental Health First Aid \(MHFA\)](#)
- April 30 from 1 – 2:30 pm CST – [Question, Persuade, Refer \(QPR\) – Suicide Prevention Training](#)

Other Links:

- [The Center of Excellence Fact Sheet](#)
- [Sign up for the monthly newsletter](#)

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