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Subject: NDLTCA Weekly Newsletter 1-9-24
Date: Tuesday, January 9, 2024 8:28:53 AM
Attachments: [image004.png](#)



NDLTCA Newsletter

January 9, 2024

All Members - All Members
Assisted Living - AL
Basic Care - BC
Nursing Facilities - NF

Congratulations to Pete Antonson! Recipient of the Distinguished Service Award

It is with great pleasure and admiration that we announce the well-deserved recognition of Pete Antonson, who has been nominated by his esteemed colleagues and awarded

the Distinguished Service Award. Pete's longstanding dedication to the field of long-term care (LTC) and his exceptional contributions to various facets of the industry have left an indelible mark on the community.

Throughout his illustrious career, Pete has been a trusted advocate for LTC. His impact has been particularly noteworthy during challenging times, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, where he played a pivotal role in advocating for necessary rule changes. Pete's contributions as a national leader, particularly in initiating a letter-writing campaign to address and ease pandemic-related restrictions.

Pete also has a strong ability to engage with legislative matters effectively. Serving in significant roles such as CFO and CEO at Northwood, he has showcased exemplary leadership and relationship-building skills with lawmakers. Colleagues highlight his involvement on the board, including stints as Regional Director and Secretary/Treasurer, demonstrating his multifaceted contributions to the LTC community.

Pete's influence extends beyond the local level, making him a prominent spokesperson for rural health concerns including the proposed minimum staffing rule. His voice has resonated in state and federal arenas, making him an indispensable advocate for the industry. Whenever questions arise, Pete has consistently been a reliable source of valuable advice, reflecting his deep knowledge and expertise in long-term care.

Pete also has served on the North Dakota Board of Examiners for Nursing Home Administrator's since 2004 where he has fulfilled the roles of Chair and Vice Chair.

Pete Antonson's remarkable achievements, relentless advocacy, and profound impact on long-term care make him an exceptional recipient of the Distinguished Service Award. His legacy of service and dedication will undoubtedly inspire future generations within the industry.

Congratulations, Pete, on this well-deserved honor!

NDLTCA Updates

AL and NF

Customer Satisfaction Ratings

Comparing customer satisfaction between our state and the country benefits long-term care providers by offering a performance benchmark, guiding targeted improvements, and facilitating informed decision-making. This data fosters a culture of innovation, supports ongoing efforts to meet regional needs, and contributes to the continuing momentum to improve overall service quality. Since North Dakota once again scored higher than the national average, it also serves as a compelling marketing tool, attracting residents and families and ensuring a competitive edge in the industry.

[Customer Satisfaction Ratings for Assisted Living in ND](#)

[Customer Satisfaction Ratings for Skilled Nursing Facilities in ND](#)

ND Department of Health and Human Services

NF

HHS will be implementing Patient Drive Payment Model (PDPM)

Effective January 1, 2025. Some of the benefits of this change are:

- CMS is ending support of the Optional State Assessment (OSA) including Schedule G and other RUG-related data elements on September 30, 2025. Removal of this schedule from Federal assessments may mean software vendors will increase fees to keep the OSA programmed for state specific use.
- Use of the Optional State Assessment (OSA) would be necessary to continue collecting information to calculate a RUG IV value.
- Implementing PDPM and discontinuing the use of OSAs will reduce administrative burden to facilities and HHS when completing assessments.
- PDPM is the most recent case mix payment methodology system and is based on the most current time studies and acuity data analysis. This makes the PDPM data the state of the art for acuity adjustments.
- Implementing PDPM also aligns Medicaid and Private Pay case mix with Medicare as they will use the same case mix index (CMI) data as the Medicare payment system. This means facilities will only have to maintain and review a single set of CMI data.

HHS is still evaluating how therapy will be treated. We will be providing updates in the future once we have completed the analysis.

The CMI used to calculate January 1, 2025 rates will be adjusted to be neutral by facility. This is consistent with the conversion from RUG III to RUG IV. We will be using MDS data, including Federal assessments, to calculate this conversion.

If you have any questions or thoughts you want to share with me, please contact me directly at lthiel@nd.gov or 701-328-4893.

HHS Crisis Intervention Units (CIU)

If someone is in danger of hurting themselves or others, you may reach out for support. Much of what the CIU has to offer is the Crisis Residential Unit (CRU), however licensure states the person has to be independent with their activities of daily living. This rules out almost all of the residents we care for. In our meeting, they said even though they may not be able to transition the person to CRU, these regional directors may be willing to discuss strategies and help staff understand techniques that may help the situation at hand. Contact them directly:

Region I: Char Ferrell, RD NWHSC, Williston, cferrell@nd.gov

Region II: John Butgereit, RD NCHSC, Minot, jbutgereit@nd.gov

Region III: Julie Baumgarn, RD LRHSC, Devils Lake, jbaumgarn@nd.gov

Region IV: Jeff McKinnon, RD NEHSC, Grand Forks, jmckinnon@nd.gov

Region V: Alanna Zeller, Interim RD, SEHCS, Fargo, alzeller@nd.gov

Region VI: Leann Pollert, Interim RD, SCHSC, Jamestown, lpollert@nd.gov

Region VII: Brad Brown, RD WCHSC, Bismarck, btbrown@nd.gov

Region VIII: Jessica Odermann, RD BLHSC, Dickinson, jodermann@nd.gov

[Which HHS region am I in?](#)

Also, [ND Mental Health Program Directory](#) and Alzheimer's Association 24/7 Helpline 800.272.3900

Questions or concerns? Contact nikki@ndltca.org

Education

Do you have Medicare Advantage Billing Questions??

All Members

The Revenue Cycle Management Module is a strong place to start. As reimbursement models move away from fee-for-service and toward value-based reimbursement, managed care, and more complex patient characteristic-based methodologies, ensuring your billing and/or accounts receivable staff have clear and consistent claims submission and claims follow-up guidance is critical.

For more information and how to register, [click here](#).

NDLTCA 47th Annual Convention and Expo

All Members

May 7-10, 2024

We will have board meetings, the PAC Events and expo setup on Tuesday, May 7, educational sessions, membership meeting and gala dinner on Wednesday, May 8, more educational sessions on Thursday with the Fun Run, Theme Hospitality and Dance closing out the day and then half a day of education on Friday, May 10. Hope you to see you there. [Watch for more information to come](#).



[More Education on our Website](#)

Quality

**REMINDER - ALL
APPLICATIONS DUE
JANUARY 25, 2024 [Click
Here](#)**

Advocacy

NDLTCA Committees

The Resident Issues Committee will be meeting to help prepare for a presentation at the Health Care interim committee on 1-30-2024. The interim committee of legislators were assigned a “study on contract nursing.” The Resident Issues Committee, will discuss this issue 1-9-2024.

The Nursing Facility Payment Committee and Funding and Reimbursement Committee will be meeting 1-10-2024 to discuss changes to the NF pricing model adopted 1-1-2022.

The PAC Committee and Annual Convention Committee are meeting 1-18-2024.

Ad Hoc Committees are convening to discuss issues related to substance abuse, significant behavioral health needs, and MDS issues.

Would you like to participate, have questions or concerns to share, contact nikki@ndltca.org.

AHCA Update

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a [proposed rule](#) on December 27, 2023, Medicare Program: Appeal Rights for Certain Changes in Patient Status, which establishes appeals processes for Medicare beneficiaries whose inpatient hospital stays were later reclassified to outpatient receiving observation services. Comments on the proposed rule are due February 26, 2024.

[CMS Issues Proposed Rule on Beneficiary Appeal Process for Reclassified Hospital Stay \(ahcancal.org\)](#)

Career Opportunities

[North Dakota Long Term Care Association | Career Opportunities \(ndltca.org\)](#)

If you would like to post a job opening for your facility, please contact Casidie Fladeland at 701-354-9775 or email casidie@ndltca.org



