
From: Nikki Wegner
Sent: Tuesday, December 12, 2023 8:51 AM
Subject: NDLTCA Weekly Newsletter 12-12-23



NDLTCA Newsletter

December 12, 2023

Thank you to our 2023 Gold Sponsors



All Members - *All Members*

Assisted Living - *AL*

Basic Care - *BC*

Nursing Facilities - *NF*

NDLTCA Updates



Our 47th Annual Convention and Expo is scheduled for May 7-10, 2024. This year's theme is "Quality: It's a Whole New Ballgame". This year's host hotel is the Radisson Hotel. Plans are underway to hold the Tuesday meetings, PAC Events & Registration and Thursday's Theme Hospitality and Dance at the Radisson. The room block is now open for booking. To see the tentative schedule and hotel information, visit the Convention website by clicking [here](#).

2024 Proactive Webinar Survey

All Members

We are looking at possibly partnering once again with Proactive Medical Review and 12 other states to hold educational webinars in 2024. We have created a survey to help us determine which webinar series you, our members, would like to see available to you in 2024. **If you could take a few minutes and complete this quick survey, <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/9DQXGPZ>, by December 15 we would appreciate it very much.**

2024 Membership Agreement

All Members

Thank you to all of you who have completed your 2024 Membership Agreement. We appreciate your membership and couldn't do all the things we do without you! If you haven't filled it out for 2024 yet, you can access a fillable form here: <https://ndltca.org/membership/> Reach out with any questions.

Dental Equipment Donation

All Members

Dr. Abrahamson would like to donate some portable dental equipment to the foundation. (Dental chairs, x-ray units, chair side units, mobile dental units, central sterilization)

The dental equipment is mainly 2 dental rear delivery cabinet units, one x-ray unit, two auto claves, and a central dental cabinet instrument cleaning station. The equipment is over 20 years

old and good condition but would need new Formica tops.

If interested, please contact Paul at (701) 238-2449

Storage of Controlled Medications

All Members

A pharmacist shares:

"Facilities in ND are starting to get cited for improper storage of controlled medications.

CMS guidance states that CIII-CV can be stored with non-controls only if they are stored in unit dose systems in which a discrepancy of missing amount would be obvious. State surveyors are interpreting this so that, i.e., a 14 day card, etc would not be considered a unit dose system.

Please make sure all controls are stored separately (in a permanently affixed container) from non-controls, if not done so already."

Kathy Laxdal states:

"The information that facilities need to be aware of is the change in the regulation which occurred back in May 2023, is there was a change in the Medication Storage Pathway "Schedule II-**V** controlled medications (excluding single-unit packaging in minimal quantities that can readily be detected if missing) were maintained within a separately locked permanently affixed compartment.

"Minimal" is not defined in the SOM or the regulation. When we talk about a 7-14 day system that is like a card that contains medication for that timeframe and is usually in the med cart. If one of the cards contains a Schedule II-V medication that the resident receives daily or as

needed (PRN) that card would need to be double locked."

[Helpful Document](#)

Releasing Information to other LTC Communities

All Members

A member asked, *is it a HIPAA violation to share information with another LTC Community that is looking at admitting someone that has outstanding debt?*

Although the law allows "payment" information to be exchanged between providers when used for purposes related to the continuation of care, after consulting several sources and a few attorneys, the safest answer was for you to obtain a release of information from the individual or their personal representative.

Follow Up to Challenging CNA Exam

All Members

Last week we sent out a message in the newsletter indicating that the state will be sending out a notice that CNAs will no longer be able to challenge the exam. Many of you have reached out with concerns. We have your same concerns and so does the state. This is really the last thing they want to do; however, the feds (CMS) are taking issue with all the states that have allowed

this practice. The state will be sending out a formal notice, so my alert was a heads up to prepare you for what's coming. The state was not specific when the notice would be sent out. To give you some background, when Darlene Bartz was the head of Health Facilities, it was the state's position this was not allowed. When Tim became the head of the division, their position changed to allowing it. Apparently, Darleen was right all along. As a state we've been allowed to do this for 4 years. We know you don't like this position and we don't either however, unfortunately at this point in time, CMS will not budge on this issue.

Caregiver and Volunteer of the Year Awards

All Members

Do you want to thank a healthcare worker who changed your life, or the life of someone you love? Nominate that person for the The North Dakota Long Term Care Association (NDLTCA) Caregiver of the Year or Volunteer of the Year Awards!

[Click here for the Caregiver Nominations Form](#)

[Click here for the Volunteer of the Year Nomination Form](#)

Spring 2024 Alan B. Engen Nurse Scholarships

All Members

Several scholarships will be available for distribution.

Spring application deadline is April 1, 2024.

For complete details and application, visit:

[North Dakota Long Term Care Association | Scholarship \(ndltca.org\)](https://www.ndltca.org/scholarship)

AHCA/NCAL Updates

AHCA/NCAL's Parkinson Named "Most Influential" for 2023

All Members



Mark

Parkinson, President and CEO of the American Health Care Association and National Center for Assisted Living, has been recognized by Modern Healthcare as one of the [100 Most Influential People in Healthcare of 2023](#). This is Parkinson's fourth year in a row to receive this honor. [Read more...](#)

CMS Discusses Revisions To Minimum Data Set For 2024

NF

[Skilled Nursing News](#) (12/7, Stulick) reports, "Minimum Data Set (MDS) changes for 2024, along with updates to nursing home surveys, were top of mind among representatives of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services on Thursday, as the agency outlined its plans for next year in an Open Door Forum." The agency "plans to release the MDS 1.19.1 in early 2024 with specifications going into effect Oct. 1 of that year, according to Heidi Magladry, Skilled Nursing Facility Quality Reporting Program coordinator for CMS." CMS "says the upcoming revisions to MDS will be small, with three changes involving anticonvulsants, self-care and mobility, and Covid vaccination status for residents."

[McKnight's Long-Term Care News](#) (12/7, Marselas) reports, "The latest Resident Assessment Instrument manual may better guide decisions about how to code certain pressure ulcers." The article adds, "The RAI user's manual that went into effect Oct. 1 clarifies that the terms 'healed' or 'unhealed' indicate whether a

pressure ulcer is 'closed' or 'open.'" This "definition affects coding choices in the MDS v1.18.11."

CMS Publishes CY 2025

Medicare Advantage Proposed Rule

All Members

CMS recently published its contract year 2025 Medicare Advantage and Part D proposed rule, which furthers beneficiary protections in several ways. Comments are due January 5, 2024.

[Read more...](#)

Education

NDLTCA Education

Proactive Medical Review Webinar Series

We have two months left of the Proactive Medical 12-month series webinars. Please reach out to Caside if you are not signed up but would like to attend these final webinars.

- SNF Department Head Briefing
December 19, 2023, 1:30 p.m. Customer
Service Concepts for the Crew

Medicare Educational Session

At the Annual Convention, we have secured Jan Ervin with Noridian to do a session on Medicare and she would like to hear what issues questions you have regarding Medicare so that she can be sure to address them in her session. Please email peggy@ndltca.org by Monday, December 18 with what you would like the session to cover.

NDLTCA Annual Convention

May 7-10, 2024
Bismarck, ND

NDLTCA Summer Administrator Conference

July 23-26, 2024
Chase on the Lake,
Walker, MN

RAC-CT Training

August 6-8, 2024
Bismarck, ND

NDLTCA Fall Conference

September 23-26, 2024
Holiday Inn, Fargo, ND

AHCA/NCAL Education

***Reminder:** Being a member of NDLTCA makes you a member of AHCA/NCAL. To get the member discount you will need to login to ACHA/NCAL. Individuals will need to login to [ahcancaLED](#) with their AHCA/NCAL usernames and passwords to register. For assistance obtaining usernames and passwords, members should e-mail educate@ahca.org with their name and facility contact information.*

ahcancaLED as extended their sale offering of \$100 off registration fees for the following education through December 31st, 2023.

AHCA’s Infection Preventionist Training (IPCO)

AHCA/NCAL’s Infection Preventionist Specialized Training (IPCO) is recommended for individuals responsible for infection prevention and control in all long-term care settings and is specifically tailored to train Infection Preventionists (IPs) in nursing facilities.

CMS mandates that every nursing facility have a designated and specially trained Infection Preventionist who is running a comprehensive infection prevention and control program. AHCA recommends that nursing facilities train at least two clinical staff members as IPs should one IP leave or be unavailable.

Revenue Cycle Management (RCM) Academy delivers concrete strategies for skilled nursing facilities to secure earned dollars, minimize unnecessary losses, and stay paid. Building a deeper understanding of the myriad SNF payor differences is essential for effective RCM and revenue flow.

For more information, please follow the link: [Education \(ahcanca.org\)](https://www.ahcanca.org/education)

Other Education

Critical Incident Reporting

BC and Specialized Basic Care who provide services to Medicaid consumers

December 27th, 2023 | 12:00 pm CT

Webinar on Microsoft teams

Join on your computer or phone: [Click here to join the meeting](#)

Or join by calling in on your phone at: [+1 701-328-0950,,87833510#](#), Phone Conference ID:
878 335 10#

Follow the link for more information and flyer: [Critical Incident Reporting](#)

Exercise Ball Drumming Training for Activity Professionals

All Members

[One 45-minute exercise ball drumming session per week via Zoom from February through May 2024.](#) Deadline to register January 1st. Seats limited. Register by contacting director@kori-art.org

KEPRO Training

NF

January 10, 2024, 10:30 a.m. Central Time

Presented by Nancy Jobe, KEPRO Outreach Specialist

Microsoft Teams meeting

Join on your computer, mobile app or room device

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 268 681 340 397

Passcode: bmCENT

[Download Teams](#) | [Join on the web](#)

[More Education on our Website](#)

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 Peggy Krikava at 701-354-9774 or email peggy@ndltca.org.

Emergency Preparedness

All Members

DECEMBER HPP CALL FOR LTC – EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS & RESPONSE

DATE CHANGE due to Christmas/New Years Holiday.

TUESDAY, 12/19 at 11:00 AM - Noon

Outlook Invite sent 12/4 AM

If you did not receive the invite, please email: Vanessa@ndltca.org

AGENDA attached.

UPTICK IN COVID-19 CASES IN LONG TERM CARE FACILITIES

As we hear of more outbreaks in facilities, attached are the most recent documents regarding COVID-19 guidance.

Please see attached:

- LTC PREVENTION RECOMMENDATIONS – 5.2023
- CMS QSO 20-39 NH revisitation revised & NH FAQ-5.8.23

Continue to educate residents, families and staff on immunization.

Advocacy



2024 NDLTCA-PAC Membership DRIVE

All Members

Become a 2024 NDLTCA-PAC member by May 10, 2024 and be in the drawing for FIVE \$100 Visa Gift Cards! Joining is easy! Simply complete the membership application and turn in along with your

donation. Suggestion donation: Administrators (\$125), Department Managers and Board Members (\$75), Staff, Sponsors, Vendors, Associate Members, (\$35). Your Membership supports the legislators and political candidates who support long term care. Your membership donation makes a difference!

[Letter from PAC President, Reier Thompson](#)
[2024 PAC Membership Application](#)

ND Office of Legal Immigration

All Members

During the 2023 Legislative session, the Office of Legal Immigration (OLI) was created. OLI is within the ND Department of Commerce. The Office will serve as a liaison between agencies and partners that facilitate global talent and immigration activities, the governor’s office, and the legislative body. It will also provide ongoing support for and participation in the ND Global Talent Taskforce, including the initial identification and onboarding of partners. Nikki is one of the partners on the Taskforce and will provide updates as they become available.

There are several steps that need to be completed before the office will officially be ‘open for business.’ We are in the first, highlighted phase.

- Complete comprehensive research to identify how this office can best support employers, communities, individuals and families. This research will engage a variety of stakeholders, partners, national experts, employers, communities and individuals.

- Using the research results, develop a responsive pilot project framework supporting businesses that are hiring and employing global talent, communities that are welcoming newcomers, and individuals and families who are choosing North Dakota as their new home.
- Identify long-term goals, activities and tasks of the Office based on the research findings.

Huge thank you to the following people who participated in this phase and provided valuable information and insights for Dalberg Advisors and Labor Mobility Partnerships (LaMP) who are conducting this research!

Amy Kreidt, Beth Urbanec, and Annie Perillo from St. Lukes Home,

Blake Kragnes from Knife River Care Center,

Deanna Berg from Cassia, Baptist Health and Rehab,

Scott Foss from Benedictine Living Community Garrison,

Kaylene Kitelinger from Good Samaritan Society, St. Vincent's and Augusta Place

Wade Peterson and Ralf Randall from Trinity Homes,

Belinda Moen from Bethel Lutheran Nursing & Rehabilitation Center

Dalberg and LaMP will be conducting meetings in eastern ND in January. Let me know if you are interested in participating!

[Read more...](#)

Regulatory Voice - Medical Records Administrative Rule

NF

We had the opportunity to review and comment on the proposed amendment to ND Admin. Code Chapter 33-07-03.2 Nursing Facilities. We supported the amendment which proposed to

eliminate the requirement "if a nursing facility does not employ an accredited record technician or registered record administrator, they must receive a consultation at least annually from an accredited record technician or registered record administrator." And instead add, "An employee of the facility must be assigned the responsibility for ensuring records are maintained, completed, and preserved."

After the public comment period had closed, the ND Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) alerted us that a late comment came in that opposed the amendment. They assured us that their stance remained the same. Thank you to Wade Peterson, Shawn Stuhaug, Garth Rydland, and Amy Kreidt for reaching out to the legislators in their areas that sit on this committee! On December 11th, 2023, we participated in the final stage of the process at the Administrative Rules Committee.

The committee heard from DHHS about the amendment. Chair Pyle ended up allowing public comment from the Health Information and Management Association who opposed the amendment. This is unusual in this stage of the process. Senator Klein then asked Shelly to clarify, and the amendment was approved. The change to this rule will be effective 1-1-2024.
