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# NDLTCA Newsletter

## October 8, 2024

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

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### NDLTCA Update

#### Keep it Local - Updated Flyer

*All Members*

The Community Healthcare Association of the Dakotas (CHAD) has joined Keep It Local. Keep It Local is a statewide coalition against Measure 4 that seeks to abolish property tax in North Dakota. The coalition is an ideologically broad group with a central goal of maintaining local control and keeping our communities great places to live.

[Find the updated flyer here](#)

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## **Congratulations Allan B. Engan Nurse Scholarship Recipients!**

### ***All Members***

We are thrilled to announce the recipients of the Allan B Engan Nurse Scholarships, awarded to student nurses who have shown a strong interest in pursuing careers in long term care. Each of these dedicated students will receive a \$1,000 scholarship to support their education and commitment to making a difference in the lives of our residents.

We would also like to extend our sincere thanks to the nurse faculty judges who generously volunteered their time and expertise to select this year's recipients. Their thoughtful contributions are instrumental in shaping the future of long-term care.

Congratulations to each of the recipients!

**Ivy Bicknese** - Benedictine Living Community in Garrison

**Samuel Harrison** - Eventide Senior Living in Fargo

**Katrina Just** - St. Rose Care Center in LaMoure

**Megan Larson** - Northwood Deaconess Health Center

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# AHCA/NCAL Cancels Delivering Solutions 24 Due to Tropical Storm Milton

## *All Members*

Orlando, Fla. – The American Health Care Association/National Center for Assisted Living (AHCA/NCAL) announced late Saturday that Delivering Solutions 24, its annual Convention & Expo and largest event of the year, was forced to be cancelled due to the projected path of the impending Hurricane Milton. [Read more...](#)

Although the AHCA/NCAL Delivering Solutions 24 conference was sadly canceled due to Hurricane Milton, we're grateful for the continued commitment of our members from North Dakota. To our friends and colleagues returning home, we wish you safe travels. Our thoughts and prayers are with the people of Florida as they face this difficult storm.

Stay safe, and thank you all for your dedication to long-term care.

# Congratulations!

## 2024 AHCA/NCAL National Quality Award Recipients



**AHCA**  
AMERICAN HEALTH CARE ASSOCIATION

**NCAL**  
NATIONAL CENTER FOR ASSISTED LIVING

We wish we could celebrate our 33 North Dakota Quality Award recipients in person at DeliveringSolutions24. Their commitment to excellence is an inspiration to us and the long term care profession. Congrats to you!

Our 2024 North Dakota Quality Award recipients deserve a round of applause for their tremendous achievement! While we're not able to do that in Orlando today, we still congratulate them. Stay on the journey toward performance excellence!

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# Three Ways to Engage with The National Quality Award Program

*All Members*

Have you ever wondered how to get involved in the Quality Award Program and showcase your commitment to leadership and quality? Here are three ways you can engage with the program.

[Read more...](#)

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## Advocacy

### Basic Care Payment Study

*AL and BC*

Thank you to Ron Frei, Doug Panchot, Devin Cleveland, Renee Muhonen, Deanna Berg, Lana Charvat, and Shelly Peterson for your support at the Health Care Committee.

The Basic Care Payment Issues Committee will meet with Sarah Aker and LeeAnn Thiel on October 29th and again on November 8th to discuss persisting issues with the basic care payment system including the inflation factor, operating margin, property component, and extending the add-on. If you'd like to join the committee, please contact Nikki [nikki@ndltca.org](mailto:nikki@ndltca.org) to be added.

All assisted living and basic care members will also have the opportunity to share your concerns and questions with Sarah Aker on November 19 at noon CDT. Please let me know if you haven't received this calendar invite.

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# Assisted Living Creating Call To Action To Boost Education Among Legislators, Regulators

*AL and BC*

[McKnight's Senior Living](#) (10/7, Bonvissuto) reports, "Assisted living is having a moment, creating a new call to action from industry experts for operators to create and maintain relationships with legislators and regulators to better educate them about what assisted living is — and what it is not."

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## How to Help Residents Vote This Election Season

*All Members*

With the 2024 election coming up, long term care providers have the opportunity to play a significant role in helping residents exercise their right to vote. Every election, seniors and other residents have a right to make their voice heard, and providers should make every effort to assist them in doing so.

[See more information and resources to help assist residents with the upcoming election.](#)

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## Education

### Metamorphosis: Leadership in a Transformative Culture

*All Members*

**October 16, 2024 at 1:00 CT**

OBJECTIVES: At the conclusion of this training, participants will be able to:

1. Describe the impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on the culture of AL/RCF care relative to behavioral health, quality care, and quality of life;
2. Apply the concept of transformational leadership and explain the benefits to workforce development;
3. Explain the value of mastering Emotional Intelligence (EI) to improve morale, social, and work-related interactions; and
4. Create an environment of care that speaks to the quality of life of everyone living and working in the community.

INTENDED AUDIENCE: Leadership, Managers, Supervisors

This conversation will inspire a new leadership perspective, moving all leaders to be creative and tenacious in meeting the challenges of the emerging culture of AL/RCF. The concept of transformative leadership and strategies every leader should consider in creating an environment of care that speaks to the needs and satisfaction of everyone living and working in the community is the focus of this session.

[Register](#)

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## **ServSafe® Certification Course and Exam**

***All Members***

This class will be taught by Deborah Strand who is an instructor enrolled in the National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation's Instructor Registry as a Certified ServSafe® Instructor and Registered Proctor #1045926.

Date: **December 3, 2024**

Registration Deadline: November 8, 2024

Location: **Dream Center, Bismarck**

For more information/flyer: [Click here](#)

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## Four New SNF VBP Measures

*NF*

Four additional CMS skilled nursing facility value-based purchasing (SNF VBP) measures took effect October 1, 2024 that will determine Medicare Part A rates beginning October 1, 2026.

These measures are in addition to the four measures already in place that impact rates starting on October 1, 2025

[Read more...](#)

[Register for webinar.](#) Understanding all eight measures and adopting best practices now will help avoid Part A payment penalties and potentially boost future incentive payments.

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## In the News

**HHS develops quality care initiative, awards incentive payments to nursing facilities for improved resident care**

*All Members*



BISMARCK, ND - North Dakota Health and Human Services (HHS) has a new quality care initiative aimed at improving overall experiences and outcomes for North Dakotans who are residents of the state's nursing facilities. [Read more...](#)

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## North Dakota voters will weigh in on 5 measures in November. Here's what they're about.

*All Members*

INFORUM Political Pulse - BISMARCK — This November, North Dakotans will be asked whether to accept or reject five changes to... [Read more...](#)

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## Business Operations Keep the Long Term Care Engine Running

*All Members*

While the clinical teams at post-acute and long term care facilities are working to provide excellent care for residents, the business operations staff are busy behind the scenes laboring to keep the engine running. Business operations teams face some of the same challenges their clinical colleagues face, plus a few of their own. Nonetheless, they are using technology, partnerships, and teamwork to keep things moving while planning for the future.

[Read more from Provider Magazine...](#)

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# Regulatory

## CMS Reminds Providers of Residents' Rights Related to Voting

*NF and BC*

On September 26, 2024, the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) released [QSO-24-21-NH](#), Compliance with Residents' Rights Requirement related to Nursing Home Residents' Right to Vote. The purpose of the memo is to affirm the regulatory expectation that nursing home residents can exercise their right to vote without interference, coercion, discrimination, or reprisal from the facility.

CMS emphasized current regulations under Residents' Rights related to exercising the right to vote as a citizen of the United States, including the use of mail for mail-in or absentee ballots, as outlined below:

- §483.10(b) Exercise of Rights: The resident has the right to exercise his or her rights as a resident of the facility and **as a citizen or resident of the United States.**
- §483.10(b)(1): The facility must ensure that the resident **can exercise his or her rights without interference, coercion, discrimination, or reprisal from the facility.**
- §483.10(b)(2): The resident has the right to be **supported by the facility in the exercise of his or her rights as required under this subpart.**

In addition, CMS highlighted regulations regarding residents' inability to cast in-person ballots and the use of mail-in ballots. CMS regulations specific to the use of mail, which also apply to voting, include:

- §483.10(g)(7): The facility must protect and facilitate the resident's right to communicate with individuals and entities within and outside of **the facility, including reasonable access to:**
  - (i) A telephone, including TTY and TDD services;
  - (ii) The internet, to the extent available to the facility; and
  - **(iii) Stationery, postage, writing implements, and the ability to send mail.**
- §483.10(h)(2): The facility must respect the resident's right to personal privacy, including the right to privacy in his or her oral (i.e., spoken), written, and electronic communications, including **the right to send and promptly receive unopened mail and other letters, packages, and materials delivered to the facility for the resident**, including those delivered through means other than a postal service.
- **"Promptly"** means delivery of mail or other materials to the resident within 24 hours of delivery by the postal service (including a post office box) and **delivery of outgoing mail to the postal service within 24 hours, except when there is no regularly scheduled postal delivery and pick-up service.**

Please contact [regulatory@ahca.org](mailto:regulatory@ahca.org) with any questions.

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## Updated CMS MDS Section GG Web-Based Training Series Now Available

*NF*

CMS has released an updated series of web-based training courses that provide an overview of the assessment and Section GG guidance found in the [Long Term Care Facility Resident Assessment Instrument \(RAI\) 3.0 User's Manual](#), Version 1.19.1. These courses are designed to promote accurate coding of the post-acute care (PAC) cross-setting data elements.

This resource is available through [SNF QRP Training](#) page. Each course includes interactive exercises to test your understanding.

To access the individual courses, click on the links below:

- [Course 1: Section GG Data Accuracy and Quality Measures](#)
- [Course 2: Prior Functioning and Prior Device Use Items](#)
- [Course 3: Accurate Coding for GG0130 and GG0170 Items](#)
- [Course 4: Understanding Admission and Discharge Performance for GG0130: Self-Care Item](#)
- [Course 5: Understanding Admission and Discharge Performance for GG0170: Mobility Items](#)

If you have questions about accessing resources or feedback regarding the training, please email the [PAC Training Mailbox](#). Content-related questions should be submitted to the [SNF QRP Help Desk](#).

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## Mandatory Provider Enrollment Off-Cycle Revalidation for ALL SNFs

*NF*

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services recently issued an announcement in the [MLN Connects newsletter](#) that **all skilled nursing facility providers will receive off-cycle provider enrollment revalidation notices from their Medicare Administrative Contractor (MAC) to collect additional data on ownership, managerial, and related party information not previously required**. This information is to be submitted in a new Appendix on the [Form CMS-855A](#) (09/24) version.

## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

- Be on the lookout for a letter from your MAC from October through December 2024 regarding a mandatory off-cycle revalidation. Approximately one-third of SNFs will receive these notices each month.
- Providers will have 90 days from the date of the letter to respond and submit the newly required information into the [Medicare Provider Enrollment, Chain, and Ownership System \(PECOS\)](#) system to keep their provider enrollment status active.
- The requested information is quite complex and affects every SNF, regardless of size or ownership characteristics.
- SNF providers no longer report in Sections 5 and 6 of the provider enrollment form, but in a new SNF-specific Appendix. Instructions for the new SNF Appendix are [here](#).
- In addition to SNF revalidation timeline discussed above, the new [Form CMS-855A](#) must be used for all of the following provider enrollment transactions effective October 1, 2024:

- a. Initial Enrollment
- b. Revalidations
- c. Reactivations
- d. CHOW

Note: If the status of any SNF transaction for a-d above prior to October 1 is “pending” in PECOS as of October 1, the MAC will request the new Appendix be completed by the SNF provider.

## WHAT YOU NEED TO DO

1. Review the new [Form CMS-855A](#) and the new [GUIDANCE FOR SNF ATTACHMENT ON FORM CMS-855A](#).
2. CMS and AHCA/NCAL suggest providers seek counsel from an attorney to help interpret the new SNF reporting requirements.
3. Begin compiling the new information that will be required to be reported ASAP.

4. Be on the lookout for an upcoming AHCA webinar on this new SNF provider enrollment reporting requirements.

Please contact [Dan Ciolek](#) or [Martin Allen](#) at AHCA/NCAL with questions

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## Workforce

### ND Long Term Care Association is Hiring!

*All Members*

Please pass along qualified and interested candidates for our Education Assistant position as well as our NEW position, Vice President of Government Affairs. Stacy is collecting resumes and cover letters and is available for questions [stacy@ndltca.org](mailto:stacy@ndltca.org).

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### Post a Job on Our Website

*All Members*

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

If you would like to post a job opening for your facility, please contact Stacy Irey at 701.222.0660 or email [stacy@ndltca.org](mailto:stacy@ndltca.org)

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[Learn more about how we can help...](#)



Contact us at 701-222-0660 or email Nikki at [nikki@ndltca.org](mailto:nikki@ndltca.org) or Peggy at [peggy@ndltca.org](mailto:peggy@ndltca.org).