



NDLTCA Newsletter

December 31, 2024

All Members - *All Members*

Assisted Living - *AL*

Basic Care - *BC*

Nursing Facilities - *NF*

NDLTCA Members and Sponsors



President's Corner

As we close out 2024 and prepare to welcome a new year, we also begin a new legislative session with a clear focus: advocating for improved funding, reducing administrative burdens in reporting, and protecting our levels of care.

The North Dakota Long Term Care Association remains dedicated to our mission: *“To enhance the lives of the people we serve through collaboration, education, and advocacy.”* Guided by this mission, we're proud to share our 2025-2027 NDLTCA Strategic Plan, which emphasizes four key areas:

1. **Advocacy** – Continuing to strengthen our voice at the state and federal levels.

2. **Workforce** – Addressing challenges in recruitment, retention, and workforce development.
3. **Member Value** – Enhancing the benefits and resources we provide to our members.
4. **Education** – Expanding opportunities for professional growth and knowledge-sharing.

To strengthen these efforts, we've expanded our team by adding a Vice President of Government Affairs, who will be instrumental in driving our advocacy initiatives at both the state and federal levels. We're also proud to offer a growing range of educational opportunities, including the thoughtfully curated bootcamps Peggy is developing for our members across various departments. Additionally, we take pride in the partnerships we've built with the state on key initiatives, such as the transition to the Patient-Driven Payment Model (PDPM) for nursing facilities.

As we move forward, we'll continue building on these accomplishments, focusing on meaningful progress for our members and the individuals they serve. Thank you for your commitment to this work, we're excited for what we'll achieve together in 2025!

Education

SAVE THE DATE - Transition to PDPM

NF

Administrators and MDS Coordinators, please save the date - **February 20, 2025 from 11:00 am - 1:00 pm CST** to join us to learn about the transition to the Patient-Driven Payment Model (PDPM) on January 1, 2026.

It is crucial for Administrators and MDS Coordinators to understand the transition to the PDPM because it directly impacts the financial health of each facility, and the quality of care provided to

residents. By investing in education and training on PDPM, Administrators and MDS Coordinators can effectively navigate this transition, benefiting both their residents and their organizations.

We'll be hosting a follow-up training session on **May 8th** during our Annual May Convention. While it's designed to build on the higher-level overview covered in the first session, both trainings offer valuable insights. We encourage your MDS Coordinators to attend both for a comprehensive understanding!

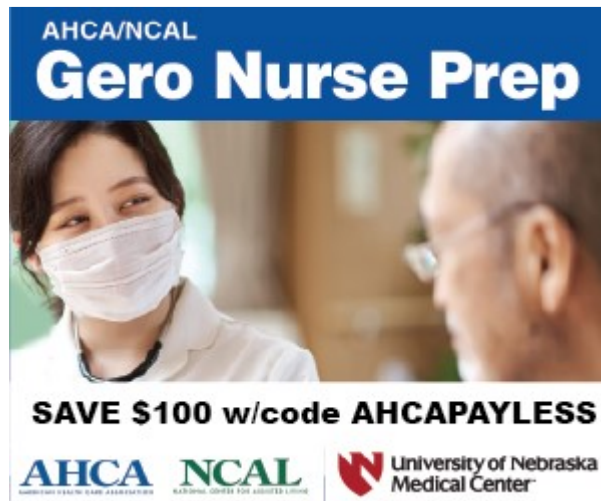
Hybrid CNA Training

All Members

[CNAonline.com](https://www.cnaonline.com) has developed a HYBRID nurse assistant training program based on the AHCA "How to be a Nurse Assistant" Curriculum to help address the workforce challenges and frontline staff shortages.

The curriculum meets all federal guidelines, review the federal crosswalk, and is adapted for ND state-specific requirements. The curriculum produces highly trained CNAs who elevate the quality of resident care for residents in long term care. If you already have a program in place, you can use this program in addition to that program.

Find everything you need on NDLTCA's website: [North Dakota Long Term Care Association | CNA Program](#)



All Members

The AHCA/NCAL Gero Nurse Prep online course is specifically designed for RNs working in long term care and provides comprehensive online training that leads to board certification in gerontological nursing and to increased geriatric knowledge and skills – a 24 percent increase on pre- and post-course test scores. Gero Nurse Prep grads who choose to sit for the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) gerontological nursing certification exam have a pass rate of 94% on their first try.

NDLTCA Members receive \$100 off the registration fee when they use the **AHCAPAYLESS** promo code at registration making their registration fee \$690.

Free Resources for NDLTCA Assisted Living and Basic Care Members

AL & BC

[IPCO for Assisted Living](#)

[Advancing Assisted Living Leadership – It's Time to Level Up](#)

[Assisted Living Infection Prevention and Control 101](#)

[Quality Assurance and Performance Improvement 101](#)

[HUD Financing](#)

[Mitigating Liability Claims in Assisted Living](#)

Free Resources for NDLTCA Nursing Facility Members

NF

[Water Management](#)

[Informal Dispute Resolution \(IDR\) Toolkit](#)

[Behavioral Health: Regulatory Overview and Behavioral Health Services](#)

[Medical Director Toolkit](#)

[Abuse and Neglect](#)

[Pressure Injury Prevention and Wound Management in LTC](#)

[Survey Preparation for the New Facilities Manager](#)

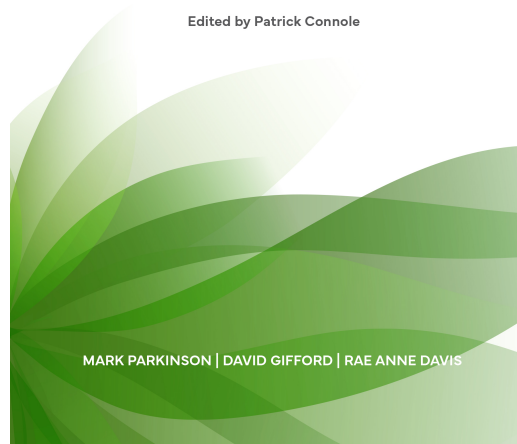
[Past Noncompliance: How to Build Your Case](#)

[Falls Prevention Guide](#)

LONG TERM CARE SUCCESS

How Senior Care Communities Thrive
Clinically and Financially

Edited by Patrick Connole



MARK PARKINSON | DAVID GIFFORD | RAE ANNE DAVIS

Long Term Care Success: How Senior Care Communities Thrive Clinically and Financially

NF

What defines success in long term care and how can leaders inspire their teams to make the daily work of caring for elders a lifelong mission? In *Long Term Care Success: How Senior Care Communities Thrive Clinically and Financially*, authors Mark Parkinson, Dr. David Gifford, and Rae Anne Davis explore the strategies and stories of some of the most innovative operators in skilled nursing and senior living. This invaluable resource combines real-world insights with actionable strategies, focusing on creating strong business foundations rooted in clinical excellence and purpose-driven care. Packed with anecdotes and lessons from top industry leaders, this book is a must-have for anyone seeking to elevate their approach in the long term care profession.

Discover the story behind the book and its insights into succeeding in long term care in this [engaging conversation](#) between Mark Parkinson and the editor of AHCA's *Provider* magazine.

[Order your book here!](#)

Veterans

Veterans Administration VCA FY 2025 Community Nursing Home PDPM Rate Tables

NF

As in past years, AHCA has developed a Veterans Administration (VA) Community Nursing Home (CNH) Veterans Care Agreement (VCA) pricing comparison tool as a member benefit. The tool can be found [here](#) under the heading “Veterans Affairs Resources.”

Under VA VCA agreements, nursing facility providers are reimbursed for short- and long-stay services furnished to veterans as a percentage of Medicare PDPM payments, as well as for other services under the VA Fee Schedule. Details are located on the VA Fee Schedule Page under the heading “Community Nursing Home (CNH) Fee Schedule.”

Note: This year’s tool includes a modified wage index workbook tab to account for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) policy, which sets a floor for year-to-year changes in the wage index multiplier for any county at -5%.

Policy and Procedures Resources

Assisted Living Policy & Procedure Manual

AL

The [Assisted Living Policy & Procedure Manual](#), developed by NCAL and available for purchase, is a manual of general policies, procedures, and forms. It is designed to be customized and modified to match the needs of different settings and organizations. It can be updated as needs and systems change and is a valuable resource.

Regulatory

CMS Plans on Taking a Closer Look at Antipsychotics

NF

For some time, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has monitored increasing antipsychotic use in nursing homes and associated schizophrenia diagnoses. A schizophrenia diagnosis, when coded on the Minimum Data Set (MDS), excludes residents from Quality Measures related to antipsychotic use. While some individuals legitimately suffer from schizophrenia, CMS aims to prevent inappropriate diagnoses and coding to justify antipsychotic use or alter Quality Measures.

Starting February 2025, updated guidance in the State Operations Manual (SOM) Appendix PP will enhance surveyor scrutiny of schizophrenia diagnoses. Surveyors will evaluate whether sufficient documentation supports the diagnosis and its accuracy on the MDS (Section I). Supporting documentation must address the resident's physical, behavioral, mental, and

psychosocial status, rule out substance effects or other medical conditions, and demonstrate how the disturbance impacts the resident's function. Specifically, documentation must include:

- Evidence of symptoms consistent with DSM criteria for the required duration.
- Notes from the diagnosing practitioner based on a comprehensive assessment.
- Confirmation that symptoms are not caused by substances or medical conditions.
- Details on how the disturbance affects the resident's function compared to prior levels.

If this information is missing, the MDS cannot code the diagnosis in Section I.

Updated policies reflecting the February 24, 2025, Appendix PP changes will be available in late January. In the meantime, facilities must comply with current regulations and F-tags. Find resources related to this and more at our Bronze Sponsor's website, [The Compliance Store](#).

Workforce

Providers Increasingly Turning To Per Diem Nursing Over Travel Nursing To Address Staffing Issues

All Members

[ModernHealthcare](#) (12/27, DeSilva, Subscription Publication, 215K) reported, "Per diem nursing is replacing travel nursing as the preferred solution to providers' staffing issues." During the pandemic "and shortly thereafter, health systems became more reliant on travel nurses, spurring growth of staffing agencies helping fill vacant roles." Meanwhile, "hospitals incurred the cost of higher wages and took a big hit financially." But now, "more providers are aiming to lower their contract labor expenses and find alternate ways to fill positions."

Post a Job on Our Website

All Members

[North Dakota Long Term Care Association | Career Opportunities \(ndltca.org\)](https://www.ndltca.org/career-opportunities)

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



Contact us at 701-222-0660 or email Nikki at nikki@ndltca.org or Peggy at peggy@ndltca.org.