



NDLTCA Newsletter

May 27, 2025

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

NDLTCA Updates

Exercises Planned in Your Facilities and Written Exercises

NF

If you have planned or are in the process of planning an exercise in your facility, please share the dates with [Vanessa Raile](#) so that she can add those dates to her calendar so she can plan to attend if her schedules allows.

If you are in the process of planning a full-scale exercise or tabletop, please know that you can reach out to your regional EPR Coordinator to assist. If you do not know who that is, please contact Vanessa and she will get their contact information to you!

If you have an exercise that you have written and/or facilitated in your facility, please share that with Vanessa.

We don't want to have to reinvent the wheel if someone else has taken the time to write an exercise. I will share them with other emergency preparedness contacts.

I can also keep them in my files. If another member is looking for an exercise, I can give them examples of what has already been written. We can all benefit!! Thank you!!

Vanessa

Questions? Contact vanessa@ndltca.org

Nursing Facility Payment Update

Transition to PDPM

NF

NDLTCA continues to engage with ND DHHS as the state moves forward with implementing the transition to the Patient-Driven Payment Model (PDPM). LeeAnn Thiel with ND DHHS is working to schedule the next training session, which will include input from a few of our member experts. This upcoming session will focus on the transition itself but **will not include information about rates** that will be covered in a future training.

We've communicated the need for timely information on rate development and requested a clear timeline for when that training will be available. While we have not yet received a response, we expect to speak with LeeAnn today and again later this week and will keep members updated.

In the meantime, if you haven't already:

- **Watch the February 20th webinar** by Juli Pascoe of Forvis, which provides a helpful PDPM overview for administrators. [PDPM Transition Webinar 2.20.25](#)
- **Hopefully you were able to attend the session presented by Jess Guggisberg of Eide Bailly** at the NDLTCA Convention, which further explored implementation insights.
- **Ensure your software vendor is aware of the guidance** shared by LeeAnn in her email (sent on March 27). CMS will no longer support the OSA assessment October 1, 2025. However, the assessment will not go away. Software vendors need to ensure that ND facilities can continue to submit OSAs directly to North Dakota at least through January 2026. If your software vendor has questions, please give them LeeAnn's contact information. She is working on updating the technical guidelines and wants to make sure she addresses any questions vendors have.

We are especially grateful to the NDLTCA members who were invited to advise ND DHHS and helped shape the PDPM component selection ensuring the model remains as cost-neutral as possible.

Stay tuned for additional training dates and updates.

Nursing Facility Incentive Program Update

NF

We're continuing our work with ND DHHS on the Nursing Facility Incentive Program (NFIP) and want to keep you informed of recent discussions, a meeting on Thursday with DHHS, and next steps. Providers have raised valid concerns about the current model, including:

- Concerns about long-term placement in Tier 4 have been raised, particularly when it may be driven by factors outside of a facility's control—such as Immediate Jeopardy citations, resident acuity, or limited access to psychiatric providers.
- Questions have also been raised about the removal of risk adjustment for pressure ulcers and whether the current approach fairly reflects facility-level quality efforts.
- Providers have noted that antipsychotic reduction targets may be especially difficult to meet in facilities serving residents with significant behavioral health needs.
- There's interest in further reviewing how incentive funds are distributed across tiers to ensure alignment with both provider performance and resident complexity.

We will be reviewing the available data with HHS on Thursday and preparing for deeper discussions this fall, including scheduling meetings to explore potential alternative models that better reflect provider realities and support quality improvement.

Your feedback continues to be critical as we advocate for fair, data-informed solutions. Stay tuned for opportunities to engage.

Regulatory

Help Shape Federal Regulatory Reform – Feedback Due May 28

All Members

The NDLTCA Regulatory Committee met this last week to review a list of federal regulations that AHCA/NCAL has proposed for rescission or modification by CMS. While these changes primarily impact nursing facilities, some **could also affect basic care and assisted living providers**.

AHCA/NCAL has invited our feedback—as well as any additional recommendations—to share directly with their contacts at CMS. In addition, Sarah Aker has requested input from North Dakota providers on potential areas for deregulation that she can help elevate through her channels.

Please refer to the email sent on May 23 for the full list of proposed changes and submit your comments or suggestions by **Tuesday, May 28 at 5:00 PM**.

We'll also be sharing this feedback with our congressional delegation during meetings in Washington, D.C. on June 10.

Thank you for helping us advocate for a more practical and provider-informed regulatory environment.

Utilizing IDDSI's Tools to Avoid Texture Modified Food Mistakes and Citations

NF

AHCA has observed that some state nursing facility surveyors are focusing more on modified texture diets. The International Dysphagia Diet Standardisation Initiative (IDDSI) provides guidelines for texture modified diets, and several nursing facilities are utilizing these standards.

AHCA and Incite Strategic Partners are hosting a free webinar on **Tuesday, June 17 at 2 p.m. EDT** titled [Utilizing IDDSI's Tools to Avoid Texture Modified Food Mistakes and Citations](#).

The free webinar is approved for 1 CE credit by CBDM for Certified Dietary Managers. [Register for this webinar here](#). Register now even if you can't attend on June 17. All registrants will be notified when the recorded webinar is available.

Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Provisions

All Members

Educate yourselves on the various HCBS provisions within the Access Final Rule as we continue discussions with ND DHHS regarding basic care and assisted living. Participate in the upcoming webinars to ask questions of CMS and provide feedback on implementation of the rule. Information regarding dates of the training, tentative topics for each session, and registration information can be found below.

[Webinar Registration - Zoom \(zoomgov.com\)](#)

The 'Learning Curve': Antipsychotics, QAPI Among Changes Needing Clarity on New Nursing Home Survey

NF

SKILLED NURSING NEWS 5-23-25 There's still ambiguity in how surveyors will interpret new elements of survey changes, but tightening up documentation to best reflect a resident's condition and care plan goals will be key. [Read More»](#)

Upcoming: Second Implementation Date for Nondiscrimination Rules

All Members

HHS, the Office of Civil Rights, and CMS released two new rules advancing protections against discrimination in health care. [Read more.](#)

Medicaid Update

Federal Medicaid Proposal Raises Concerns for Long Term Care

All Members

The U.S. House's proposed budget includes a freeze on provider tax rates raising concerns about long-term Medicaid funding and state flexibility. While North Dakota does not use provider taxes in LTC, we are monitoring this closely as part of a broader push to limit Medicaid spending. AHCA is urging the Senate to restore flexibility and protect funding for vulnerable populations.

What You Can Do:

NDLTCA is gathering member feedback to share with our national partners and state congressional delegation. Please send me any comments you may have.

Thank You to Our DC Advocates

We're grateful to the nursing facility, basic care, and assisted living members who will be joining us in Washington, D.C. on June 10 to bring North Dakota's long term care priorities directly to our congressional leaders:

- Amy and Claire Kreidt, Blake Kragnes, Doug Panchot, Garth Rydland, Joyce Linnerud-Fowler, Kiara Tuchscherer, Reier Thompson, and Wade Peterson.

Your voice and leadership make a difference as we work to protect access to care for seniors and individuals with disabilities in North Dakota.

Assisted Living

Learn About Infection and Prevention Control Programs in Assisted Living

AL

NCAL's IPCO for Assisted Living reviews effective AL infection prevention and control programs, the role of quality improvement, understanding IPC precautions, and key stakeholders to engage in an IPC program.

[Read More](#)

Legislative and Policy

AL

[HUD 232 Update](#)

The Department of Housing and Urban Development recently announced it is restoring longstanding practice regarding 232/223(f) repairs. [Read More](#)

[SENIOR Act Bill to Address Loneliness](#)

The *Caring for Seniors Act* aims to enhance senior living by investing in workforce development and providing cost reduction support for low-income seniors. [Read More](#)

[Care Across Generations Act](#)

The *Care Across Generations Act* aims to support intergenerational caregiving in long term care facilities through a grant program. [Read More](#)

[National Nursing Workforce Center Act](#)

This bipartisan legislation would address nursing workforce shortages by supporting nursing workforce centers in almost every state. [Read More](#)

[Improving Care and Access to Nurses \(I CAN\) Act](#)

AHCA/NCAL supports the Improving Care and Access to Nurses (I CAN) Act, which would increase access to care. [Read More](#)

Advocacy

AL

[Just The Facts: Medicaid is a Critical Component of the Long Term Care System](#)

Medicaid is a critical safety net for America's seniors to ensure they can access the long term care they need. [Read More](#)

[Congressional Visits Highlight Importance of Assisted Living in Senior Care](#)

Recent congressional visits to assisted living communities have increased lawmakers' understanding of the sector's challenges, emphasizing the need for policy solutions supporting workforce, Medicaid, affordability, and quality care. [Read More](#)

[Assisted Living Advocates in Action](#)

Assisted living providers nationwide are advocating in Washington, D.C. Here's how you can get involved and share your advocacy efforts. [Read More](#)

Workforce

Supreme Court Allows Removal of Protected Status for Venezuelans

All Members

The U.S. Supreme Court earlier this week permitted the Trump Administration to end TPS for hundreds of thousands of Venezuelans in the United States. [Read More](#)

WORKFORCE RECRUITING: Now Accepting R-COOL-Health Scrubs Camp Grant Applications

All Members

Per Nikki Wegner email (5/15)

The Rural Collaborative Opportunities for Occupational Learning in Health (R-COOL-Health) Scrubs Camps are one-day health career awareness camps in rural communities. A partnership of a local healthcare facility, economic or job development authority, and a school create a camp for students to learn about careers in healthcare from local healthcare professionals.

NDLTCA Website: Keep Your Job Listings Up to Date!

All Members

Are your job postings current?

We're encouraging all members to take a few moments to review the job postings listed on our website:

👉 [NDLTCA Job Openings](#)

If any of the positions you've posted are no longer open or need to be updated, please let us know so we can make the necessary changes. Keeping this page current helps job seekers find the right opportunities—and ensures your organization stays visible to top talent.

Have a new job to share?

We'd love to include it! Simply send us the following:

- The job title and description
- Any important details (e.g., location, application deadline)
- A link to the job posting on your organization's website

You can send updates or new listings to Belma at belma@ndltca.org

Thank you for helping us keep our job board accurate and helpful for everyone!

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Thank you for all of your support for the association and its members!





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