



NDLTCA Newsletter

July 15, 2025

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

Regulatory Advocacy

Federal & Local Engagement: Advocacy Continues Post Big Beautiful Bill

All Members

Following the passage of the Big Beautiful Bill, NDLTCA has remained actively engaged with federal partners to address a range of ongoing regulatory and operational challenges affecting long term care providers. In recent weeks, we've been invited to provide direct input to North Dakota's congressional delegation on several key issues, including concerns related to the **Facility Reported and Incident (FRI) process, Enhanced Barrier Protections, COVID Isolation requirements and Strict Liability provisions**. We also had the opportunity to clarify and expand on this information in further discussions with Senator Hoeven's office.

Beyond regulatory concerns, we continue to work closely with both AHCA and federal officials to address challenges with the Department of **Veterans Affairs' transition to the PDPM** payment model and the **removal of bed hold days**, which has raised significant concerns among providers. These early-stage discussions aim to ensure that updates to the program do not unintentionally disrupt care continuity or place unnecessary strain on providers.

Our advocacy also includes raising awareness of the burden posed by **UPIC audits**. Congressional staff have requested additional documentation and examples from the field, and we are encouraged by their responsiveness and willingness to explore common-sense solutions that maintain accountability without creating undue administrative strain.

In addition to these efforts, NDLTCA continues to support national advocacy related to

immigration reform. AHCA has recently signaled that it will increase its efforts on securing a carve-out for long term care within broader federal immigration policy—a critical step toward addressing persistent workforce shortages. This development reflects growing recognition of the essential role international workers play in sustaining quality care across the continuum.

NDLTCA In The News

All Members

NDLTCA leadership has been actively engaged in discussions about the recent passage of the “Big Beautiful Bill” and its implications for long term care in North Dakota. To read the recent column without having to subscribe to the news, [click here](#).

May 27, 2025 [Proposed Medicaid changes unlikely to pose major challenges in North Dakota, some say](#)

July 11, 2025 [Viewpoint: Understanding the impacts of 'big beautiful bill' on long-term care in North Dakota - Grand Forks Herald](#)

July 14, 2025 [Bismarck Tribune: Nikki Wegner: Understanding Big Beautiful Bill impacts on long term care in ND](#)

July 14, 2025 [Federal bill includes supports for ND long-term care](#)

National Reconciliation Review

All Members

AHCA/NCAL has developed a [detailed summary](#), as well as a [one-page summary](#) of the key legislative provisions and timelines impacting providers, as well as Medicaid Expansion populations nationwide. *Please note that both resources are for AHCA/NCAL members only and require a log-in to access.*

Also, please join tomorrow's webinar **July 16 at 2:30 pm CT** to hear from ND's Medicaid Director, Sarah Aker for a briefing on how this impacts North Dakota [Join Microsoft Teams](#)

IMPORTANT: August 1 Mandatory SNF Provider Enrollment Revalidation Deadline

NF

Skilled nursing facility (SNF) providers enrolled in Medicare or Medicare/Medicaid must [submit](#) a mandatory off-cycle provider enrollment revalidation by **August 1, 2025**, or risk having enrollment suspended or revoked. We've been notified that only 50% of SNFs nationwide have successfully submitted so far. We know many of you are trying but running into issues. AHCA is collecting feedback on submission challenges and is also available to assist. If you've encountered any problems, please send a brief summary of the issue to AHCA staff so they can track common concerns and help troubleshoot. Contact Daniel Ciolek dciolek@ahca.org.

[July 7th update](#)

IMPORTANT: AHCA/NCAL Submission on HHS Request For Information

All Members

AHCA/NCAL submitted [comments](#) to the Health and Human Services Request for Information: Ensuring Lawful Regulations and Unleashing Innovation to Make America Healthy Again. This

letter was also shared with Secretary Kennedy and Administrator Dr. Oz. This is the third formal RFI submission (previously OMB RFI in May and CMS RFI in June). This HHS RFI submission has 29 recommendations, many that we previously submitted in the other RFIs and some new as we have continued to identify regulatory solutions to help our members.

Please contact Nikki with any feedback or questions.

Local Collaboration: Meeting with Interim NDHHS Commissioner Traynor

AL and BC

NDLTCA also continues to strengthen its relationships with state leadership. In a recent meeting with Interim NDHHS Commissioner Traynor, we had the opportunity to introduce the association's work and share early priorities. Topics of particular interest included the Basic Care payment structure and the broader conversation around aligning licensing models with the Home and Community-Based Services framework.

The Commissioner expressed interest in gaining a better understanding of the current model and invited NDLTCA to submit a position paper outlining our perspective. We appreciated the opportunity for direct dialogue and look forward to working with him in his interim role. His openness and thoughtful approach signal promising potential for collaborative problem-solving on behalf of North Dakota's long term care community.

Thank you to our Gold Sponsor, McKesson for your continued support!



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Education

Get RAC-CT Certified – In-Person Workshop This August!

NF

August 12–14, 2025 | 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM CT Daily

 Courtyard Bismarck North | [3319 N 14th St, Bismarck, ND](https://www.marriott.com/hotels-and-resorts/properties/courtyard-bismarck-north)

Strengthen your expertise in MDS, clinical assessment, and PDPM with the **AAPACN Resident Assessment Coordinator-Certified (RAC-CT®)** certification workshop hosted by NDLTCA.

Important Notes:

- Designed for professionals with **at least six months of MDS/RAI experience**
- Newer to the process? Consider taking **MDS Essentials** first
- You'll have **one year** to complete certification exams (three attempts per course allowed)
- Recertification is required every two years

 Please note: This training is geared toward those who are **not yet RAC-CT certified**.

 [Learn More and Register Here](#)

Interested in an Online RAC-CTA Certification Class?

NF

We've had member interest in hosting an **online RAC-CTA (Resident Assessment Coordinator–Advanced) certification course**, and we'd like to hear from you!

If you're looking to advance your skills and take the next step beyond RAC-CT, the RAC-CTA program provides a deeper dive into the complexities of the MDS and the Patient-Driven Payment Model (PDPM), helping you become a more strategic and data-informed assessment coordinator.

 **Would you attend an online RAC-CTA training if offered?** Let us know by emailing **Peggy** at peggy@ndltca.org

If there's enough interest, we'll work on scheduling an online option soon. Thanks for helping us plan future education opportunities that meet your needs!

Still Time to Register!

2025 Summer Administrator's Conference

All Members

 July 22–25, 2025 |  Chase on the Lake, Walker, MN

Join long term care administrators, industry experts, and thought leaders for four days of learning, networking, and relaxation at the beautiful Chase on the Lake resort in Walker, MN.

Conference Highlights:

- Engaging educational sessions
- Evening networking events
- Scenic lakeside setting perfect for recharging

 **Register Now & View Full Schedule:** ndltca.org/events/administrators-conference

 **Spots are filling quickly**—secure yours today and get ready for an unforgettable experience in Walker!

You're Invited! Upcoming Educational Webinar Series: Mastering MDS Classification and PDPM Calculation

NF

Join us for a **four-part educational webinar series** designed specifically for **MDS Nurses and interdisciplinary team members** who are involved in MDS assessments and the PDPM process.

This series will provide a focused review of the **MDS items used for classification**, including **NTA (Non-Therapy Ancillary), ST (Speech Therapy), and Nursing components**—followed by a final session that ties it all together with **PDPM reimbursement calculation**.

 **Webinar Dates & Topics:**

- **July 16 @ 11:30 a.m.** – Understanding NTA Components
- **July 30 @ 11:30 a.m.** – Speech Therapy Classification: What You Need to Know
- **August 6 @ 11:30 a.m.** – Navigating the Nursing Classification Items
- **August 20 @ 11:30 a.m.** – Pulling it All Together: Calculating Reimbursement Under PDPM

Each session will be approximately one hour and will include time for Q&A.

 **Can't attend live?** No worries—all webinars will be recorded and available to watch later, either for review or for those who couldn't join live.

 A **Microsoft Teams invite has already been sent** to participants. If you did not receive it or would like a calendar invite, please contact **Peggy** at peggy@ndltca.org.

 Be sure to share this training opportunity with your **MDS Nurses, IDT members, and anyone who would benefit** from a better understanding of MDS and PDPM!

Member Highlight - Lunch N' Learn

All Members

**SWALLOWING: WHAT'S NORMAL,
WHAT'S NOT and WHAT TO DO ABOUT IT**
LUNCH N' LEARN

Wednesday, July 23

All Saints Chapel • 12:30 - 2:00 P.M.

Our **Swallowing: What's Normal, What's Not and What To Do About It Lunch N' Learn** will help you recognize signs and symptoms of swallow dysfunction, provide strategies, and access interventions.

**WHAT YOU
WILL LEARN:**

- Differences between typical and disordered swallowing.
- Practical strategies for immediate application.
- Resources available should swallowing concerns arise.

By addressing swallowing concerns, we will help you feel empowered to ask for help in order to enjoy mealtime with greater safety and ease.



RSVPS ENCOURAGED, LUNCH IS PROVIDED, SPOTS ARE LIMITED.

This event is free to the community and is open to caregivers, patients and professionals.

4580 Coleman Street • Bismarck, ND 58503 • (701) 751-5223

Quality

Member Highlight - Good Samaritan Society commits to high-quality senior care

All Members

We're proud to recognize *Good Samaritan Society*, one of our valued association members, for their continued leadership and innovation in senior care. Their recently released **2024 Quality Report** showcases impressive progress in expanding access, improving safety, strengthening their workforce, and deepening community engagement—especially in rural communities where over 70% of their residents live. Good Samaritan Society, the nation's largest nonprofit provider of senior care, has reaffirmed its dedication to high-quality care for seniors, particularly in rural communities. Check out the full story here: [Good Samaritan Society commits to high-quality senior care](#)

NFIP Tier Summary Statewide Quality Measure Data Discussion

All Members

Last week, Sarah Berreth walked us through a detailed analysis of North Dakota's performance. While more facilities are qualifying for payments, the statewide quality measures have declined in several key areas. Her presentation highlighted where performance has possibly slipped and how much of the change stems from measurement updates versus outcomes. If you missed it, you can catch up here:

[7.8.25 NFIP Tier Summary Statewide Quality Data Discussion – Video](#)

[7.8.25 NFIP Tier Summary Statewide Quality Data Discussion – PowerPoint](#)



NDLTCA is proud to support the launch of the 2026 ACHA/NCAL National Quality Award Program

All Members

This is the 30th year of recognizing excellence in long term and post-acute care. Applications are now available—don't wait: <https://www.ahcancal.org/qualityaward> Through engaging with the Quality Award Program, organizations benefit from valuable external insights and constructive feedback, build a strong team, become more resilient, boost performance, and earn recognition – all with the ultimate result of improving the quality of care and quality of life of residents.

2026 Live Kick-Off Webinar: Taking place on Thursday, July 31st at 3pm EST. We strongly encourage all applicants and state affiliates to attend and jumpstart their application journey. [Registration](#) is free to AHCA/NCAL members.

Medicaid

Personal Needs Allowance Increased

NF and BC

Starting July 1, 2025, ND Medicaid has raised this amount by \$15 per month. This amount will be reviewed every year for inflation impacts and if appropriate, will increase.

Workforce

How to Prepare for and Handle Potential ICE Visits

All Members

The Administration recently revoked a longstanding policy that restricted federal immigration authorities from carrying out enforcement activities at “sensitive locations,” including health care facilities. As a result, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) can now enforce immigration laws in these settings. This updated policy has left some health care and senior living providers and employers with questions about how to handle ICE interactions effectively and in compliance with the law, as well as how best to assist residents, families and staff members fearful of or struggling with these actions. [Read more...](#)

Assisted Living

The Benefits of Data in Assisted Living

AL

Assisted living communities are in a new era in which data plays a critical role in driving quality improvement and enhancing care. Many providers have already begun integrating data collection into their operations. [Read more.](#)

Research Opportunity

Telehealth Use in Nursing Home on Behalf of Patients with Cognitive Impairment

NF

Researchers at Vanderbilt University are conducting a study to learn how telehealth is being used in nursing homes for residents with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias. The investigators are interested in talking with medical directors, nursing directors, administrators, and other staff about their experience of telehealth, whether it is useful or not useful, and what makes it easier or harder to use telehealth. The researchers are especially interested in hearing from people working in rural nursing homes.

The study would involve a single interview lasting no more than 45 minutes, and the interview can be conducted in person, by telephone, or by teleconference. The research team will provide a \$100 gift certificate to thank you for the SNF provider representative's time.

If you would be interested in being interviewed or would like to find out more about the study, please contact Dr. Jessica Ancker at 646-248-9281 or jessica.s.ancker@vumc.org. [More information...](#)



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