



NDLTCA Newsletter

July 1, 2025

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

Thank you to our Platinum Sponsor, Marsh McLennan Agency for your continued support!





Congratulations to Our Silver Quality Award Recipients!

All Members

We're thrilled to celebrate seven outstanding North Dakota long term care facilities that have earned the **AHCA/NCAL Silver – Achievement in Quality Award**! We're proud to share that our state has one of the highest percentages of members achieving the Silver Quality Award this year! This national recognition, rooted in the Malcolm Baldrige framework, honors organizations that demonstrate systematic and measurable approaches to improving performance and quality of care.

Earning the Silver Award is no small feat—it reflects a deep commitment to excellence, resident-centered care, and continuous improvement. We applaud these dedicated teams for raising the bar for quality in North Dakota long term care!

Let's give them a well-deserved round of applause! 🙌

Pinnacle Results Are In – North Dakota Providers Continue to Lead the Nation

AL and NF

The latest Pinnacle Quality Insight results are in, and once again, North Dakota's nursing facilities and assisted living communities are outperforming the national average in every measured category. These results reflect the continued dedication of our providers to delivering high-quality, person-centered care.

Thank you to all our members for your ongoing commitment to excellence!

[Nursing Facilities State Graphs](#)

[Assisted Living State Graphs](#)

NDLTCA Partnering Associations

Support Professional Growth: Encourage Staff to Join Their Discipline's Association

All Members

NDLTCA proudly partners with six professional associations throughout the year, helping to shape focused educational tracks at our conferences and providing a platform for each group to hold meetings and grow their impact.

We encourage all facilities to support and promote membership in these associations. Getting involved helps your staff stay current on discipline-specific developments, connect with peers, and contribute to the advancement of long term care in North Dakota.

Please share the following opportunities with your team:

◆ North Dakota Environmental Services Association (NDESA)

A professional group for environmental services staff working in long term care settings across North Dakota.

 Contact: Mike Medrud - mmedrud@rcccnd.org

 [Join NDESA](#)

◆ Activity Professionals of North Dakota (APND)

Designed for activity professionals in LTC. Membership offers resources, networking, and professional development.

 Contact: Nannette Hoeger - NHoeger@valleyseniorliving.org

 [Join APND](#)

◆ Long Term Care Social Workers of North Dakota (LTCSWND)

A support network for LTC social workers focused on education, collaboration, and advocacy.

 Contact: Kelly Gustavson – kgustavson@stanleyhealth.org

 [Join LTCSWND](#)

◆ **ND NADONA**

The leading association for nurse leaders in skilled nursing and assisted living. Offers education, leadership development, regulatory updates, and a robust professional network.

 Contact: Alena Goergen - Alena.Goergen@SanfordHealth.org

 [Join NADONA](#)

◆ **ND Association of Nutrition & Food Professionals (ND ANFP)**

A resource for dietary staff working in long term care. Connect with others in your field and advance your skills.

 Contact: Melanie Elverud- melanie.elverud@tcmcenter.org

 [Join ND ANFP](#)

◆ **ACHCA – Rough Rider Chapter**

For licensed nursing home administrators in North Dakota. Join a national network focused on leadership, ethics, and operational excellence.

 Contact: Reier Thompson – Reier.Thompson@mslcc.com

 [Apply Here](#)

By supporting involvement in these associations, you're investing in professional growth, better care outcomes, and a stronger LTC community statewide.

Assisted Living

VA Assisted Living Pilot Program Update

AL

We're pleased to share the latest on the VA's Assisted Living (AL) Pilot Program—an initiative long championed by NCAL and state providers like you. Here's the latest:

- During the U.S. Senate Appropriations hearing on June 24, Sen. Susan Collins specifically highlighted the VA AL pilot and pressed VA Secretary McDonough on its rollout.
- Sen. Jim Banks (R-IN), member of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee, has formally requested an expedited start to the program.
- The pilot will initially include two VA regions (VISNs), each serving up to 60 eligible veterans in assisted living settings.
- NCAL remains deeply engaged—advocating for timely execution and will continue updating members as implementation advances.

Why it matters: This pilot paves the way for VA-paid assisted living care, offering veterans a choice in long-term, person-centered care options. It's a huge win for veteran services and a direct result of sustained advocacy. Stay tuned—we'll keep you posted as the pilot progresses!

[Find the issue brief here](#)

Federal Policy Update

Quick Update: Meeting with Congresswoman Fedorchak

6.30.25 in Richardton

All Members

Mandy Robinson, Richardton Health Center and Erica Cermak, NDLTCA had the opportunity to connect with Congresswoman Fedorchak yesterday in Richardton. They had a great, fast-paced meeting with the Congresswoman who continues to be a strong voice for our industry. We talked about the reduction in retroactive coverage of Medicaid in the Big Beautiful Bill. She appreciated our feedback that even the original three months was challenging and shared that upcoming technology improvements should help speed up approvals.

We also discussed immigration delays that many of our members are experiencing. She asked us to share more details so her office can better understand the impact-**we will be sending out a survey today, please be sure to complete and return right away!**

On COVID and Enhanced Barrier Precaution requirements, she agreed reforms are needed—and even filmed a video with Mandy to send to Dr. Oz in support of common-sense changes!

Finally, they continued the conversation from when we were in DC on the concerns about the regulatory burden on nursing homes and discussed the issues with strict liability with Facility Reported Incidents (FRIs).

Though they only had a short time with the Congresswoman, it was a productive conversation with clear next steps. We appreciate the Congresswoman's ongoing advocacy for our members and those we serve.

Medicaid Cuts, Provider Tax, and Staffing Mandate Developments

NF

As Congress works toward finalizing a legislative package before the July 4th recess, we want to provide a high-level update on where things stand and what it means for long-term care.

◆ No Major Changes for Nursing Homes in the Latest Bill

The most important takeaway: there are no material changes in the bill that negatively affect nursing homes. In fact, for the first time ever, our sector has been specifically carved out and protected from cuts—a significant and positive precedent.

◆ Provider Tax Timeline Shift

The phase-down of provider tax ceilings in Medicaid expansion states has been delayed by one year—from 2027 to 2028. For **non-expansion**, existing provider tax rates are **frozen**, meaning no changes are expected. North Dakota nursing homes do not have provider tax and therefore this does not impact us.

◆ Staffing Mandate: Moratorium Remains in Place

Contrary to some early and inaccurate media reports, the Senate's proposed **10-year moratorium** on the federal staffing mandate is still intact. While the stronger "ban" language was struck for procedural reasons, the moratorium is functionally the same and remains a major victory for long term care.

◆ Additional Highlights

- **Redeterminations** for Medicaid eligibility will continue on an annual basis for long term care populations.
- Some additional measures in the bill (like property asset assessments) do not directly impact facility funding but are worth watching.

◆ Next Steps & Congressional Timeline

After a 24-hour vote-a-rama, Senate Majority Leader John Thune and Senate Republicans reached an agreement, passing an amended version of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act by a vote of 51-50. Senators Susan Collins (ME), Thom Tillis (NC), and Rand Paul (KY) voted against the bill, while Vice President J.D. Vance cast the tie-breaking vote, sending the legislation back to the House.

Speaker Mike Johnson was in close contact with President Trump and Senator Thune throughout the evening. While the House is expected to act swiftly—starting with a meeting of the House Rules Committee—it remains unclear whether the Senate’s version will pass the House or undergo further changes.

President Trump remains eager to see this passed but has signaled some flexibility on the July 4th deadline. Time will tell.

If you have specific questions about how this may affect your facility or funding, don’t hesitate to reach out, nikki@ndltca.org.

Also, Sarah Aker, ND Medicaid Director provides an update at an interim hearing last week. Click on her name on the right-hand side: [Budget Section Human Resources Division 6.25.25](#)

AHCA's Better Way to Support an Aging America

All Members

Our country has a growing elderly population. More people than ever will need long term care. It is critical that our nation’s leaders prioritize, support, and invest in America’s seniors and their caregivers. [Read more.](#)

Regulatory Update

Projected Five-Star Impact of New Survey Scoring

Methodology

NF

Next month, on July 30th CMS will publicly release updated Five-Star ratings that use a new survey scoring methodology. Last week, [CMS announced](#) they will drop the third most recent standard survey, while still including three years of complaint and infection control survey deficiencies. They will adjust the survey weights to accommodate these changes. The table below summarizes the changes.

In North Dakota, most centers (60 out of 73) should not see a change in their overall ratings. Five are projected to lose a star and 3 will gain a star. Projected state-level impacts can be found in [the PowerBI on the State Affiliate Resource Center](#). We are working to release a Top-Line in LTC Trend Tracker next week for members to see their individual center projections.

	Current		Starting July 30, 2025	
	Surveys Included	Weight	Surveys Included	Weight
Cycle 1	<u>Standard</u> – Most recent <u>Complaint</u> – Past 12 Months	50%	<u>Standard</u> – Most Recent <u>Complaint</u> – Past 12 Months	75%
Cycle 2	<u>Standard</u> – Second most recent <u>Complaint</u> – 13-24 Months ago	33.3%	<u>Standard</u> – Second Most Recent <u>Complaint</u> – 13-36 Months Ago	25%
Cycle 3	<u>Standard</u> – Third most recent <u>Complaint</u> – 25-36 Months ago	16.7%		

Note: Infection Control Surveys count as Complaint currently and in the new methodology

CMS Updates SNF Medicare Provider Compliance Guidance Resource to Prevent Claim Denials

NF

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced that the agency has updated its Medicare Compliance Tips for Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) Services resource. [Read more.](#)

CMS Announces Industry Commitment to Fix Prior Authorization

All Members

Participating health insurers voluntarily pledged to implement six changes to their prior authorization practices.

[Read more...](#)

Medicaid State Plan Changes for July 1, 2025

NF and BC

Most North Dakota Medicaid providers will receive a two percent provider inflationary increase which are estimated to increase Medicaid expenditures effective for dates of services July 1, 2025. The increase was authorized and the funds for the increase were appropriated by the 2025 Legislative Assembly.

The following services are paid from the North Dakota Medicaid Fee Schedules. Fee schedules for services are on the Department of Health and Human Services web site at:

<https://www.hhs.nd.gov/healthcare/medicaid/provider/fee-schedules>

[Find the public notice here...](#)

OSHA Announces Suspension of COVID-19 Recordkeeping and Reporting Requirements

All Members

OSHA issued a memorandum announcing an immediate suspension, or “stay,” of its COVID-19 recordkeeping and reporting requirements. [Read More](#)

VA

Community Nursing Home Partners

NF

If you have a contract with the VA, you may have received notice that they will be shifting to a Patient-Driven Payment Model (PDPM) for pricing rather than negotiated rates effective October 1, 2025. We understand there are still questions about how this change will impact providers—especially with the transition to PDPM scheduled for January 1, 2026.

We are actively working to get clarification on how these two changes will interact and what providers can expect during the transition.

In the meantime, AHCA has resourced to help providers stay informed and will continue to

update materials as more information becomes available. You can find the latest resources here:

- AHCA VA PDPM rate tools are located on the [AHCA Reimbursement Resources webpage](#) in the downloads section.

Workforce

Inspiring the Next Generation: Engaging Youth in Long Term Care

All Members

Looking for fresh ideas to inspire the next generation of long term care professionals? Join AHCA/NCAL Workforce Committee members and state affiliate workforce staff as they share firsthand experiences and innovative approaches to engaging youth in their communities and facilities.

- [Inspiring the Next Generation: Engaging Youth in Long Term Care: Part 1](#)
- [Inspiring the Next Generation: Engaging Youth in Long Term Care: Part 2](#)

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!

Behavioral Health

Center of Excellence for Behavioral Health in Nursing

Facilities Trainings

NF

**Understanding Schizophrenia and Psychosis:
Clinical Clues and Communication Tools**

Thursday, July 17, 2025

2-2:45 p.m. ET

Speakers: Dr. Abhilash Desai & Jennifer Goodpaster

[Register HERE](#)

.
**Not Just Schizophrenia:
Exploring Psychosis Tied to Substance Use in Nursing Facilities**

**Tuesday, July 22, 2025
2-2:45 p.m. ET**

Speakers: Dr. Abhilash Desai & Dr. Jenn Azen

[Register HERE](#)

.
**Understanding Psychosis: Differentiating Schizophrenia from Psychotic Symptoms Due to
Medical and Neurological Conditions in Nursing Facilities**

**Thursday, July 24, 2025
2-2:45 p.m. ET**

Speaker: Dr. Abhilash Desai

[Register HERE](#)

.
**Non-pharmacological Interventions for Psychotic Symptoms due to Schizophrenia and other
Psychotic Disorders**

**Tuesday, July 29, 2025
2-2:45 p.m. ET**

Speakers: Dr. Abhilash Desai & David Brog

[Register HERE](#)

