



NDLTCA Newsletter

October 14, 2025

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

NDLTCA Updates

IMPORTANT Reminder: The SNF Data Validation Process for SNF QRP Started September 2025

NF

CMS finalized a policy for skilled nursing facilities (SNFs) who participate in the SNF Quality Reporting Program, a validation process that began in the fall of 2025 for the FY 2027 SNF QRP. [Read more.](#)

Rural Health Transformation Committee/Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP) Update

All Members

On Tuesday, October 14, the Legislative Rural Health Transformation Committee met to discuss parameters around North Dakota’s application for the RHTP. North Dakota is eligible to receive up to \$100 million per year in new federal rural health funding through the RHTP. The program—part of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act—will invest in workforce, innovation, prevention, and data infrastructure to strengthen care across rural communities. Sarah Aker with NDDHHS presented findings from surveys, listening sessions, and tribal consultations and identified four statewide priorities for the grant application:

- **Strengthening the health care workforce**

- **Bringing care closer to home**
- **Improving population health**
- **Advancing technology and data systems.**

The state's application is due to CMS by **November 5**, with funding awards expected by the end of the year.

During the discussion, **the moratorium on nursing facility and basic care beds** was noted as one factor affecting North Dakota's federal scoring potential (effectively lowering our score). Sarah explained this in a factual context and did note the legislation passed earlier this year which extended the moratorium for four years. Following review of the scoring process, Legislative Council was asked to prepare bill drafts for potential policy adjustments—for example, removing the moratorium could affect the state's overall score. The committee requested bill drafts be ready for consideration during the upcoming special session in January.

Given the committee will be considering potential bill drafts pertaining to scoring during the January session, **now is the time** to begin conversations with Legislators in your district about the importance of the moratorium.

Below are some talking points that may help guide those discussions:

- The existing bed moratorium has played an important role in ensuring that growth within our system remains aligned with community needs, service quality, and sustainability. It has helped maintain a balance that prioritizes access, accountability, and the continuity of care across providers who share a mission-driven focus.

- Any proposed change to this policy should be carefully considered in consultation with all stakeholders to ensure that we preserve the integrity, quality, and equitable structure of our care system.
- The current moratorium serves as a safeguard to ensure that system expansion happens thoughtfully and equitably. It helps maintain a landscape where quality of care, not scale or market pressure, drives decisions.
- Adjusting this policy without stakeholder input could unintentionally disrupt the balance that supports mission-oriented providers and the values our rate equalization structure is designed to uphold.”

The committee will meet again Wednesday, October 15 to continue discussions surrounding the application. We will update you of any pertinent information. **To watch the committee hearing click here: [North Dakota Legislative Branch Video](#)**

REMINDER: Upcoming virtual training-Bronze Quality Workshop

All Members

If you're interested in attending, [register here](#). Pricing for registration includes up to 3 participants from each facility:

Bronze: \$200.00

BRONZE AWARD WORKSHOP SERIES



November 4 & 13
1:00 - 3:00 pm CST



DISCUSSIONS

SESSION 1

Understanding the Baldrige framework.
Describing the quality award process.
Review of the organizational profile.

SESSION 2

Review of the organizational profile.
Results and feedback.

If your organization has thought about participating in the AHCA/NCAL National Quality Award program, this is your opportunity to complete the Bronze Award application from beginning to end with coaching support along the way from our expert facilitator.

This workshop is about more than an award; besides gaining a better understanding of what examiners are looking for and how to use the award criteria as an improvement tool, you will learn how to use the award process to focus, align, and accelerate your performance excellence efforts - becoming a high-performing organization.

REGISTER TODAY!

Education



Join Us for the 2025 Life Safety, Emergency

Preparedness & Environmental Services Bootcamp!

All Members

Don't miss this comprehensive **two-day training** designed to strengthen your facility's safety, emergency readiness, and environmental service practices.



Dates: Wednesday, November 5 & Thursday, November 6



Location: DoubleTree by Hilton, West Fargo



Lunch is provided each day!

This bootcamp offers hands-on learning, expert insights, and practical tools to help your team stay prepared and compliant.



Early Bird Registration Deadline: October 20



View the agenda [here](#)



Secure your spot today [➔ Register Here](#)



Hotel Information:

Stay conveniently nearby at the Holiday Inn, Fargo.

Rate: \$129 + tax (1 King)

Room Block Closes: Monday, October 20

Or call **701-282-2700 (Option 0)** and ask for the *NDLTCA Bootcamp Room Block* to reserve your room.

Join colleagues from across the state for two days of essential training, networking, and collaboration—because safety starts with preparation!

Free AHCA/NCAL Training: Medication Reconciliation for Better Patient Care

All Members

As an NDLTCA and AHCA/NCAL member, you have access to a new training series focused on **medication reconciliation**—a key process to reduce medication errors, hospital readmissions, and healthcare costs, especially for older adults.

This course covers:

- The importance of accurate medication lists
- Differences between medication reconciliation and medication review
- The shared role of healthcare professionals in ensuring safe care transitions

Each module includes videos, slides, handouts, and key takeaways.

Cost: Free for AHCA/NCAL members

CEs: Not offered

 [Register & more information here](#)

Log in at the AHCA/NCAL website, click the green register button, and start the course under the Contents tab. For help, email educate@ahca.org.

Take advantage of this valuable resource to improve patient safety and care quality!

Reminder: The MDS PDPM Webinar Series Recordings and Handouts Are Still Available.

NF

Did you miss one of our recent MDS PDPM webinars — or want to revisit the valuable insights Alicia and Sarah shared? Good news! All four session recordings and their corresponding

handouts are still available for you to access at your convenience.

 **Webinar Dates were** July 16, July 20, August 6, and August 20

 **What's Included:**

- Full recordings of all four webinars
- Downloadable handouts and reference materials

 **How to Access:**

Visit the **Recordings** page in the **Members Only** section of our website.

 A login is required to view and download materials.

 If you need help with your password, please reach out to us directly for assistance.

 **[Log in to access the recordings and materials](#)**

Don't miss this opportunity to catch up on the full MDS PDPM Webinar Series and strengthen your understanding of PDPM best practices — all at your own pace!

The Empowered Caregiver: Responding to Dementia-Related Behaviors

All Members

This class details common behavior changes and how they are a form of communication, non-medical approaches to behaviors and recognizing when additional help is needed.

- Wednesday, October 22nd, 2:00 to 3:00 pm CST- Via Webinar: REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED - <https://bit.ly/412JOn7>
- Wednesday, November 19th, 2:00 to 3:30 pm CST - Via Webinar: REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED - <https://bit.ly/4mTmSiZ>
- Tuesday, December 16th 2:00 to 3:00 pm CST - Via Webinar: REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED - <https://bit.ly/4nhUqrr>

The Alzheimer's Association offers a number of Alzheimer's and dementia programs available live at: <https://www.communityresourcefinder.org/>

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



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Vice President of Sales
mwilhelm@infinityrehab.com
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Workforce

Academic Platforms is offering a new promotion for AHCA members until the end of the year! Take advantage of this great opportunity!

Our Best Deal in Online CNA Training-Ever!



Solve your clinical workforce challenge with our hybrid online course featuring AHCA's renowned curriculum, *How to Be a Nurse Assistant*, led by an RN instructor at the best price ever!

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Workforce Bills Introduced on Capitol Hill

All Members

Two workforce-related bills were recently introduced on the Hill: the *Health Care Workforce Expansion Act* and the *Pathways to Health Careers Act*. [Read More](#)

New Podcast Episode: Financial Sustainability

All Members

Nate Schema describes the challenges and opportunities around financial sustainability in long term care and shares lessons learned about leveraging scale, investing in the workforce, and embracing technology. [Read more.](#)

Assisted Living

How QAPI Principles Drive Quality and Performance in Assisted Living Communities

AL

QAPI programs create reactive and proactive actions that help AL communities address problems and create a roadmap for consistently improving care and service delivery. [Read More](#)

The Assisted Living Policy and Procedure Manual

AL

Simplify policy development with this all-in-one collection of customizable templates developed by the National Center for Assisted Living for **Infection Control, Medications & Treatments, Staff Orientation & Training**, and more.

This easy-to-use manual enables you to adapt policies to evolving regulations and your community's needs. Your order includes a **durable binder and tabs**—everything you need to assemble a polished, ready-to-use manual.

[Place your order today and set a new standard for excellence!](#)

[Price | \\$250.00](#)

Regulatory

'Mixed Feelings': MDS Section R Removal Offers Savings, Reduces Admin Burdens, But Nursing Homes Say They Need It

NF

SKILLED NURSING NEWS 10-10-25

As of October, CMS removed Section R from the MDS, eliminating four SDOH-related items. The finalized, initially unexpected change is affecting SNF discharge planning and care coordination, drawing mixed industry reactions. [Read More»](#)

‘Respiratory is One of the Biggest Denials’: Inside the New MDS and Avoiding Costly Compliance Errors at Nursing Homes

NF

SKILLED NURSING NEWS 10-3-25

In the latest Minimum Data Set (MDS), effective on Oct. 1, providers will need to pay close attention to definition changes as well as to the sections on Falls and Therapy Services, which have become known as major sources of compliance errors and revenue loss. [Read More»](#)

IRS Guidance Plan

All Members

AHCA/NCAL shares: Last week, the IRS released its [priority guidance plan](#) for 2025-2026. The Plan outlines the guidance IRS has or intends to develop during the 12-month period from July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026 (plan year). The items outlined reflect the IRS’s focus on five key areas: implementation of the OBBBA; deregulation and burden reduction; and guidance addressing Tribal tax issues, digital assets, and the SECURE 2.0 Act. Providers should work with their accountants to determine individual impact of these projects.

Technology

From Risk to Referral Management: How Nursing Homes Are Using Technology to Thrive and Minimize Citations

All Members

SKILLED NURSING NEWS 10-10-25

Technology is shaping operations, care delivery, staffing, and regulatory risk management in nursing homes, and its deployment is finally catching up to other sectors within the health care continuum. [Read More»](#)

Multigenerational Plan for Aging - Assistive Technology

All Members

ND HHS has partnered with local agencies to participate in a series of Lunch and Learn presentations for the Multigenerational Plan for Aging (MPA). These Lunch and Learn virtual presentations are designed to provide information on the variety of services available to assist the people in our communities across the state.

Please join us on **Thursday, October 23, 2025, from 12:00 p.m. – 12:30 p.m. CST** for the MPA Lunch and Learn virtual presentation – **Discover Assistive Technology** presented by Randon Lovering, Director of Professional Services, North Dakota Assistive.

Microsoft Teams [Need help?](#)

Join the meeting now

Meeting ID: 212 754 858 130 9

Passcode: UB26vH3D



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