



NDLTCA Newsletter

September 30, 2025

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

NDLTCA Updates

Celebrating the Faces of Assisted Living

All Members

The North Dakota Long Term Care Association is proud to announce the winners of this year's *Faces of Assisted Living Photo Contest*, honoring the vibrant lives and stories within our assisted living communities!

🌟 Congratulations to our 2025 Winners:

- **Benedict Court – Dickinson**
- **Valley Senior Living – Wheatland Terrace**
- **Park Avenue Villa – Dickinson**
- **The View – Minot**

These communities exemplify the heart of assisted living, where compassionate care, meaningful connections, and resident centered living come together to create truly special places to call home.

We will be in contact with each winning facility regarding their prize. Thank you for helping us showcase the incredible work happening across North Dakota!



Thank You for Attending the Fall Conference!

All Members

We want to extend a heartfelt *thank you* to everyone who attended this year's Fall Conference! Your presence, participation, and engagement helped make the event a success. We've already received a lot of positive feedback and are thrilled to hear how valuable the sessions were for so many of you.

To help us continue improving, we'd love to hear from *everyone*

👉 **Submit your overall conference feedback here:**

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DVXZ6XB>

👉 **Evaluate each session you attended here:**

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/7DX6SMY>

Your input truly shapes future conferences, so thank you in advance for taking a few minutes to share your thoughts!

Need Your Certificate of Attendance?

Certificates are now available for download through the online portal:

<https://mtsreport.com/ndltca/25sep/>

You'll need to enter your last name and registration confirmation number. If you don't have your confirmation number handy, no worries—there's a link at the bottom of the login page to help you look it up.

Thanks again for being part of this year's conference—we appreciate your continued support and involvement!

— *NDLTCA Staff and Fall Conference Committee*

Baldrige Quality Award Video

All Members

In case you missed it:

 Watch the Awards Video: <https://youtu.be/pfB1Mad0MCE> and be sure to turn your sound up!

These awards honor organizations that demonstrate a steadfast commitment to quality, innovation, and resident-centered care. We are so proud of the dedicated teams across the state who continue to raise the bar for excellence in long term care and assisted living.

Thank you for all you do to support quality care every day. Please join us in congratulating and celebrating our award-winning facilities!

NF Payment

PDPM Transition and Rate Calculation Update

NF

We are about three months from implementing ND PDPM for classifications January 1, 2026. Here is some information on how the rates will be set and notice requirements. **Be sure to share this with your billing staff.**

PDPM Classification Notices

PDPM classification notices will be generated starting in October. You need to provide these notices within three business days just like the RUG IV classification notices. Along with the PDPM classification notice you must provide a printed copy of the “ND PDPM Quick View” located on our web site at [Long Term Care Providers](#).

As a reminder, the SLP letter will be the first value, the Nursing letter will be the second value and the NTA letter will be the third value. We will be posting a spreadsheet with the 1,801 classifications and the case mix index (CMI) for each classification on our web site at [Long Term Care Providers](#).

The ND Payment System booklet is updated for PDPM and is titled “ND Payment System FAQ “. It is available on our web site at [Long Term Care Providers](#). A printed copy of this booklet should be given to all new residents.

PDPM Rates

We will use ND PDPM classifications for July 2024-June 2025 to calculate a ND PDPM relative weight for each facility. These classifications will be calculated in the same manner as ND

PDPM classifications for January 1, 2026. The SLP, Nursing and NTA values will be used.

We will calculate a conversion factor for each facility using the formula below. The conversion factor will be in the rate file that you will receive with your rate notice on November 24, 2025. The conversion from the RUG IV base rate (formerly weight of 1) to the ND PDPM base rate will only affect the direct care rate and the direct care margin cap. The skilled market basket and direct care limit will be applied prior to converting the base rate.

The facility specific conversion factor calculation is:

$$\text{PDPM Relative Weight} / \text{RUG IV Relative Weight} = \text{conversion factor}$$

The PDPM Direct Care Rate and Margin Cap calculation will be:

$$\text{RUG IV Direct Care Rate} / \text{PDPM conversion factor} = \text{PDPM Direct Care Rate}$$

$$\text{RUG IV Direct Margin Cap} / \text{PDPM conversion factor} = \text{PDPM Direct Margin Cap}$$

The PDPM base rate is the sum of the following rate components:

PDPM Direct Care Rate + PDPM Direct Margin Cap (subject to the limits)

Other Direct Care Rate + Other Direct Margin Cap (subject to the limits)

Indirect Care Rate + Indirect Margin Cap (subject to the limits)

Property Rate

Passthrough Rate

Private Pay Rate Notice of Rate Increase

Only the base rate will be shown on the rate sheet in the rate file. All private pay residents must receive the base rate and a printed copy of a document that has additional information on how they can look up the ND PDPM classification. We are working on that document and will let you know when its posted on our web site at [Long Term Care Providers](#).

If you have questions on the PDPM transition or the rate calculation, please contact me. Thanks.

LeeAnn Thiel

Medicaid Payment and Reimbursement

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Education

❤️ Frontline Caregiver Training – Not too late to register!

All Members

Join us for a one-day, in-person training event designed **for our Frontline Staff**, the essential team members who keep our care communities thriving. **Early bird registration has extended to Thursday, Oct. 2 at midnight CT.**

What makes this training special is how much our frontline staff truly appreciate and enjoy it. Past attendees consistently tell us how valuable it is — not just for professional growth, but for feeling recognized and supported in their important roles.

We're offering the training in **two convenient locations** — Bismarck and Fargo — so staff can attend the session closest to home.

Choose the location that works best for you:

- 📍 **Tuesday, October 14** – Holiday Inn, **Bismarck**
- 📍 **Wednesday, October 15** – Doubletree, **Fargo**

This conference is ideal for:

- ✓ CNAs & NAs
- ✓ Medication Aides
- ✓ Dietary Aides & Dietary Staff
- ✓ Nurses & Social Workers
- ✓ Housekeeping & Environmental Services
- ✓ Staff from Assisted Living, Basic Care & Nursing Facilities

Why Attend?

- Boost your skills and confidence
- Learn practical tools for compassionate, quality care

- Connect with peers and gain fresh inspiration
- Celebrate the vital role you play every day!

[!\[\]\(2b9000c261447981d88674ebdb52dc1e_img.jpg\) More information and registration will be posted on our website as it becomes available](#)

Advocacy

Proposed Bill Would Repeal IMD Exclusion, Expand Behavioral Health Access

All Members

U.S. Reps. Salud Carbajal (D-CA) and Don Bacon (R-NE) have introduced the *Increasing Behavioral Health Treatment Act (H.R. 4022)*. The bill would repeal the federal “IMD exclusion,” which currently limits Medicaid funding for care for people with behavioral health needs in certain facilities. It would also give states the option to expand outpatient and community-based services, strengthen crisis stabilization, and improve care coordination. Lawmakers say the measure aims to improve access to treatment and enhance public safety.

Government & Politics Health

North Dakota legislative leaders expect special session for federal rural health care dollars

All Members

ND MONITOR By:[Mary Steurer](#)-September 24, 2025

The North Dakota Legislature will form a new interim committee and is anticipating a special session to handle \$500 million expected from the federal government for rural health care over the next five years.

[Read more...](#)

Upcoming Interim Legislative Committees and Taskforce

All Members

- Oct. 15 | 10 am | Legislative Task Force on Government Efficiency | [More info.](#)
 - Nov. 10 | 10 am | Health Care Committee | [More info.](#)
 - Nov. 19 | 9 am | Human Services Committee | [More info.](#)
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Proposed MA payment requirements would address one of skilled nursing's biggest 'pain points'

NF

MCKNIGHTS by [Kimberly Marselas](#) September 25, 2025

Medicare Advantage plans would be expected to pay nearly all clean claims within 30 days under bipartisan legislation recently introduced in both chambers. [Read more...](#)

Workforce

Touchpoint with Global Talent Office

All Members

The NDLTCA Workforce Committee met with the ND Global Talent Office on Sept. 29th. The Global Talent Office is focused on connecting individuals, especially immigrants already in North Dakota with employers through training, English language support, and workforce pipelines. They recently [relaunched their grant program](#) and introduced the [EnGen platform](#), which offers free, self-paced and coached English learning seats, including CNA and healthcare modules. They are also working on visa decision flowcharts, educational webinars, and the future sustainability of the Cherokee Federal pipeline, which currently runs through December 31.

To support their work, providers can enroll staff in [EnGen](#), participate in integration studies, and share utilization data to demonstrate outcomes to legislators and funding bodies. They also encouraged feedback on workforce needs, barriers, and potential involvement in a shared funding model to keep Cherokee Federal going. Finally, there was discussion about advocating for CNA testing flexibility to better support ESL learners.

Immigration Updates: H-1B Restrictions and Gold Card Program

All Members

[Dana Ritchie from AHCA shares:](#)

The Trump Administration recently released two immigration related actions.

First, the President signed a [proclamation](#) to restrict the entry into the United States of certain H-1B non-immigrant worker visas, requiring a \$100,000 payment to accompany or supplement H-

1B petitions for new applications. The restriction applies only to new entrants and includes provisions for national interest exemptions at the Secretary of Homeland Security's discretion. The policy remains in effect for 12 months unless extended.

The H-1B nonimmigrant visa program, created through the Immigration Act of 1990, allows U.S. employers to temporarily employ foreign workers in specialty occupations requiring bachelor's degrees or higher. With an annual cap of 65,000 visas plus 20,000 for advanced U.S. degree holders, the program operates through a lottery system due to consistently high demand. For the H-1B petitions approved in FY 2024, computer-related occupations were the largest major occupational category, accounting for 64 percent of all beneficiaries. The next largest major occupational group was architecture, engineering, and surveying with 10 percent. Medicine and Health accounted for less than 5 percent.

Further related information can be found here on this update: [U.S. Department of Homeland Security U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Memo](#) and [H-1B FAQ](#).

The second action was an [Executive Order](#), which establishes "The Gold Card" program offering expedited permanent residence pathways for individuals willing to make substantial financial gifts to the United States. The Executive Order establishes a \$1million gift requirement for individual applicants and \$2 million for corporate sponsors, with funds deposited in a separate Treasury account for "promoting commerce and American industry."

The H-1B restrictions took immediate effect on September 21, 2025, while the Gold Card program requires 90 days for full implementation including application processes and fee structures.



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