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# NDLTCA Newsletter

## November 25, 2025

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



On behalf our staff and board, we are incredibly grateful for each of you, members and sponsors, who show up every day with dedication, compassion, and commitment to those you serve. Thank you for the work you do, the support you provide, and the difference you make across North Dakota's long term care continuum. We appreciate you more than you know.

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## **NDLTCA Updates**

**☀️ Help Us Keep Our Career Opportunities Updated! ☀️**

*All Members*

Do you have open positions at your facility? We'd love to help you spread the word!

Please send all job opportunities to [belma@ndltca.org](mailto:belma@ndltca.org) so we can get them posted on our website: [ndltca.org/job-opening-list/](http://ndltca.org/job-opening-list/)

Additionally, we're asking all members to take a quick moment to review the current listings. If you see any positions that are filled, outdated, or need to be removed, please let Belma know so we can keep the page accurate and helpful for job seekers across the state. Your updates ensure our career opportunities page remains a valuable resource for both applicants and our facilities. Thank you for your partnership!

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## FINAL REMINDER

# RURAL HEALTH TRANSFORMATION PROGRAM: Provider & Community Partner Readiness Survey - Respond by December 1st

### *NF and BC*

North Dakota's grant application for the Rural Health Transformation Program has been submitted. You can review the full application on the [Rural Health Transformation Program webpage](#).

As a next step, the ND Dept. of Health and Human Services (NDHHS) is conducting a readiness assessment survey to understand the capacity of NDHHS, healthcare providers, and community partners to begin implementation.

**Take the survey at [https://ndhealth.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_1C8phJahlAw9EsS](https://ndhealth.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_1C8phJahlAw9EsS)**

Pages 41–45 of the [Project Narrative](#) outline the initiatives proposed in the grant application. While this document still needs to be reviewed and approved by the Centers for Medicare &

Medicaid Services (CMS), it is anticipated that the first-year budget will operate on a shortened timeline, with the initial budget period ending October 31, 2026.

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## Veterans

### 2026 VA Fee Schedule now available

*NF*

**Rates effective Jan. 1, 2026**

The 2026 [VA Fee Schedule](#) is now available, with rates going into effect Jan. 1, 2026.

When providing authorized care to Veterans, it's helpful to know how VA decides reimbursement rates. When there's no contract-negotiated or Medicare rate in place, the VA Fee Schedule ensures payments are fair and consistent for hospital, medical, and extended care services.

To help ensure smooth billing and timely payments, we encourage you to review the 2026 VAFS and understand when these rates apply.

[Visit the VA Fee Schedule webpage to learn more.](#)

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## Advocacy

## ***NEWLY SCHEDULED* Interim Legislative Calendar**

### ***All Members***

- Dec. 3 | 2:00 pm | Department of Health & Human Services Admin Rules Hearing (basic care) | [More info.](#)
  - Dec. 4 | 11 am | Rural Health Transformation Committee | [More info.](#)
  - Dec. 10 | 10 am | Budget Section | [More info.](#)
  - Dec. 10 | 1 pm | Budget Section Human Resources Division | [More info.](#)
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## **AHCA/NCAL Advocates for Streamlined Prior Authorization in Medicare Advantage**

### ***All Members***

AHCA/NCAL's proposals aim to ensure timely access to PAC services for Medicare beneficiaries while simultaneously reducing the administrative burden associated with prior authorization processes. [Read more.](#)

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## Regulatory

### CMS issues Q&A for State Recovery after Federal Government Shutdown

NF

CMS released a QSO with [Questions + Answers for State Recovery after the Federal Government Shutdown | CMS](#). Here are some highlights:

- On November 12, 2025, Congress enacted Public Law 119-37, providing for a continuing appropriation (“continuing resolution”) through January 30, 2026, with retroactive authority back to October 1, 2025.
  - This enables States to be reimbursed for survey activities conducted during the shutdown period.
- The answers in the QSO provide special procedures applicable only to the period of the federal government shutdown (Oct. 1, 2025 through November 12, 2025) and subsequent steps including the following:
  - States should resume all activities suspended during the shutdown.
  - States should issue all federal surveys where the CMS-2567 had been held due to the shutdown by December 12, 2025.
- The QSO directs questions to the relevant CMS location (CMS Region).

Please feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns.

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## **White Paper Raises Concern Over Impact Of CMS’ Long-Stay Antipsychotic Medication Quality Measure**

*NF*

[MCKNIGHTS Foster Stubbs](#) November 20, 2025

While intended to prevent the inappropriate use of antipsychotic drugs in nursing homes, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services’ Long-Stay Antipsychotic Medication quality measure has inadvertently restricted access to safe and effective treatments for more than 3 million residents with Alzheimer’s and related conditions. That is according to a November [white](#)

[paper](#) produced by Manatt Health with support from the Alliance for Aging Research in collaboration with [Project PAUSE](#). [Read more...](#)

[Skilled Nursing News](#) (11/21, Carroll) reported that "older adults with dementia who may benefit from antipsychotic medications are being harmed by" CMS' "Long-Stay Antipsychotic Medication quality measure," according "to a new white paper from the Alliance for Aging Research and Project PAUSE [Psychoactive Appropriate Use for Safety and Effectiveness]." The [document](#) (PDF) "explores how the" measure "shapes the treatment of neuropsychiatric symptoms in Alzheimer's and related dementias and examines the challenges of supporting skilled nursing residents with the condition." [Read more...](#)

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## **As pressures mount, so do involuntary nursing home discharges. Here's how providers should approach them**

*NF*

MCKNIGHTS [Kimberly Marselas](#) November 20, 2025

More U.S. nursing homes are issuing involuntary resident discharges amid mounting financial pressures and liability concerns, a trend highlighted by AARP. McKnight's Long Term Care News outlines how providers should respond: by ensuring all internal remedies are exhausted, strictly following federal and state discharge rules, and proactively working with public health or ombudsman offices when behavioral or safety issues arise. [Read more.](#)

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## **Assisted Living**

## Video: Advocacy in Assisted Living

*AL*

LaShuan Bethea, executive director of the National Center for Assisted Living, spoke with *Provider* to explore why advocacy is critical in assisted living, NCAL's policy priorities, and how providers can get involved. [Read more.](#)

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## Quality

### Improving Section GG Accuracy Through QAPI

*NF*

Section GG lends itself well to QAPI monitoring because it provides clear, measurable indicators of compliance. Facilities can begin by routinely auditing a sample of assessments each quarter. [Read more.](#)

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## Reminders

### NDLTCA Caregiver of the Year Award Nominations

*All Members*

Do you know a long term care employee who goes above and beyond to enhance the lives of residents or tenants? Now's the time to recognize their dedication!

The North Dakota Long Term Care Association (NDLTCA) is accepting nominations for the 2026 Caregiver of the Year Award. All employees working in North Dakota long term care facilities are eligible.

 Winners will be honored at the NDLTCA Annual Convention in Bismarck, May 5–8, 2026, during the Awards Gala on Wednesday, May 6.

 Deadline: Nominations must be postmarked by Friday, February 6, 2026

 Learn more and access the fillable nomination form at [ndltca.org/caregiver](https://ndltca.org/caregiver)

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## NDLTCA Volunteer of the Year Award – Nominate a Hero!

### *All Members*

Have a volunteer who has made a lasting impact on your residents' lives? Show your appreciation by nominating them for the 2026 Volunteer of the Year Award!

NDLTCA is proud to honor individuals or groups who have significantly contributed to the quality of life in long term care settings.

 Winners will be celebrated at the NDLTCA Annual Convention in Bismarck, May 5–8, 2026, during the Awards Gala on Wednesday, May 6.

 Deadline: Nominations must be postmarked by Friday, February 6, 2026

 Download the nomination form and learn more at [ndltca.org/volunteer](https://ndltca.org/volunteer)

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Thank you to our Bronze Sponsor, Vikor for your continued support!



Contact us at 701-222-0660 or email Nikki at [nikki@ndltca.org](mailto:nikki@ndltca.org) or Peggy at [peggy@ndltca.org](mailto:peggy@ndltca.org).