



NDLTCA Newsletter

December 23, 2025

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



Rural Health Transformation Fund Update

All Members

KX News: [Gov. Armstrong, legislators waiting on CMS to prepare for special session](#)

Next month, state legislators will help approve more than \$500 million over five years, that's meant to improve rural health care in the state. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, or CMS, will announce how the money will be awarded by December 31st. Once that happens, the governor will issue an executive order calling for a special session. So far, the special session is expected to begin on January 21st. Lawmakers say they expect it may take

three days before they can get through the votes needed and wrap up.

After special session, the Department will begin the process for accepting applications for the funds.

- Jan. 13 | 1 pm | [Rural Health Transformation Committee](#)
 - Jan. 14 | 8:30 am | [Rural Health Transformation Committee](#)
-

Education

2026 Year-Long Webinar Series Registration

NF

NDLTCA is excited to launch three comprehensive year-long, monthly virtual webinar series beginning January 2026, designed to support long term care leaders and teams with practical, real-world guidance. 📄 Flyers and detailed schedules are available on each registration home page.

Survey & Clinical Risk Management

 Begins January 13, 2026

 <https://ndltca.swoogo.com/surveyclinicalriskmanagement>

DON Playbook: Skills for Today's LTC Nurse Leader

 Begins January 20, 2026

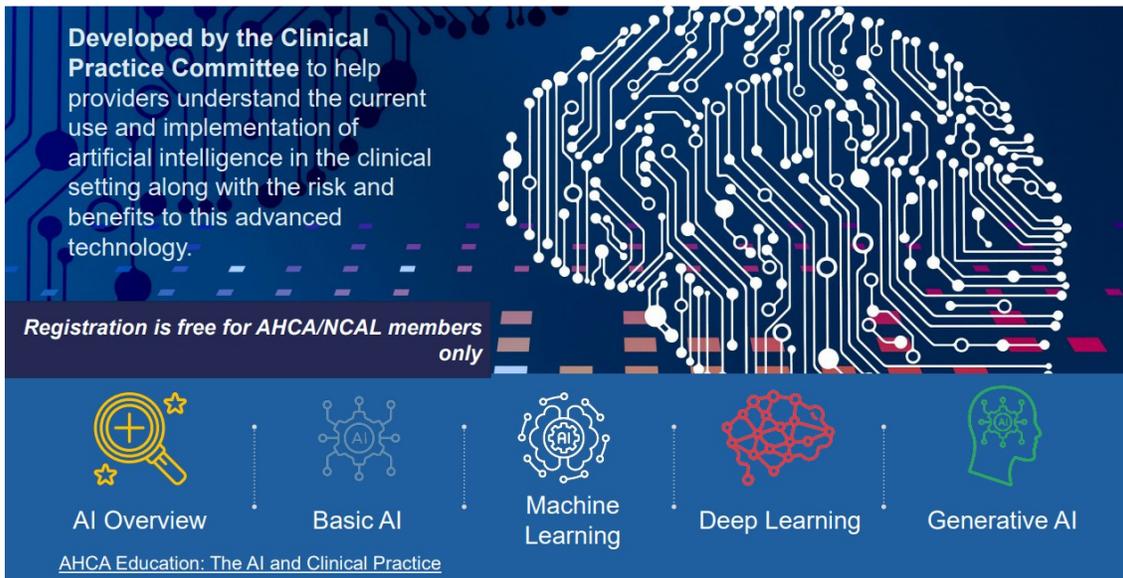
 <https://ndltca.swoogo.com/donplaybook>

TEAM MDS! Insights & Coaching for Quality Coding & PDPM Success

 Begins January 27, 2026

 <https://ndltca.swoogo.com/teammds>

Invest in your team and set your organization up for success in 2026 with expert-led education you can apply immediately!



Developed by the Clinical Practice Committee to help providers understand the current use and implementation of artificial intelligence in the clinical setting along with the risk and benefits to this advanced technology.

Registration is free for AHCA/NCAL members only

AI Overview Basic AI Machine Learning Deep Learning Generative AI

AHCA Education: The AI and Clinical Practice

The graphic features a dark blue background with a white circuit board pattern forming a brain shape on the right. The text is in white and yellow. The bottom section has a dark blue background with five icons representing different AI topics: a magnifying glass with a plus sign and stars, a network of nodes with 'AI' in the center, a circular network of nodes with 'AI' in the center, a red neural network diagram, and a green head profile with a brain and circuitry.

AI and Clinical Practice in Long Term Care

All Members

Artificial intelligence is rapidly shaping healthcare—and long term care is no exception. This **five-module, self-paced program** explores the history of AI, key AI types, and real-world applications in healthcare.

- **Format:** On-demand, self-paced modules

- **Cost:** Free for AHCA/NCAL members
- **CE credits:** Not available

[Register today](#)

C.A.R.E.™ FRAMEWORK – Collaborative Training Day

All Members

Date: **January 28, 2026**

Time: **8:30 AM – 1:30 PM**

Location: **First Community Credit Union – Mandan Branch, [4614 Memorial Hwy, Mandan, ND 58554](#)**

The C.A.R.E.™ Framework (Context of Autonomy, Relationship, & Engagement) guides capacity and consent-related decision-making for individuals living with dementia. This collaborative training brings together multiple LTC facilities for shared learning and consistent implementation.

Designed for Directors of Nursing, Administrators, Social Services Directors, Therapy & Nursing Leadership. Includes structured instruction, case-based learning, scenario practice, and a practical debrief.

\$500 per facility Includes training admission for 2 leaders, lunch, and all materials.

Register by contacting:

Megan Dooley, OTD, OTR/L Innovative Therapy Solutions & Consulting, LLC
megan.dooley@innovativetherapysc.com

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



Workforce

Immigration Policy & H-1B Updates

All Members

Date: **January 8, 2026**

Time: **12:00 PM – 1:30 PM CT**

The Department of Commerce is hosting a webinar that will provide timely immigration and H-1B updates impacting U.S. employers, with a focus on what recent changes mean for workforce planning.

[Register today](#)

Immediate Workforce Solutions for ND Employers

All Members

Date: **January 14, 2026**

Time: **11:30 AM – 12:30 PM CT**

The Department of Commerce is hosting a webinar that will highlight a proven, employer-driven workforce solution helping North Dakota businesses fill open roles quickly with work-authorized talent already living in the U.S. Learn how Cherokee Federal, Strengthen ND, and the North Dakota Global Talent Office are partnering through the Dakota Roots Workforce Fund to support successful hiring, retention, and long-term community growth across the state.

[Register today](#)

Regulatory

CMS Update: GUIDANCE FOR SNF ATTACHMENT ON FORM CMS-855A

NF

CMS has issued guidance for a new **SNF-specific attachment** to the Medicare enrollment form (CMS-855A), requiring expanded disclosure of ownership, governance, and other parties with operational, financial, or managerial influence.

The previously announced **January 1, 2026 revalidation deadline has been indefinitely suspended**. CMS will provide additional guidance at a later date.

While no action is required at this time, SNFs may wish to begin familiarizing themselves with the new requirements and gathering information in preparation for future revalidation.

[Guidance for SNF Attachment on Form CMS-855A \(PDF\)](#)

Free On-Demand Webinar for AHCA/NCAL Members: Understanding CMS F-Tag 755

NF

Medication management is a top survey and safety priority for skilled nursing facilities. This **free, on-demand webinar** focuses on **CMS F-Tag 755 (Pharmacy Services)** and how it supports safe, compliant medication practices amid rising resident acuity and medication complexity.

Join **Rick, Alex, and Nicole** as they review the core elements of F-755, share real-world examples, and offer practical tips for strengthening compliance and maximizing your pharmacy partnership.

[Register today](#)

New/Updated Regulatory Resources

NF

§483.45 Pharmacy Services

[Survey Tips – Pharmacy Services](#)

§483.80 Infection Control

[Hot Topic Brief and Tip Sheet: Using CDC's Isolation Precautions in Appendix A](#)

CMS Updates Several iQIES Survey & Certification FAQs/Q&As

CMS recently updated several documents about survey and certification processes in iQIES. [Read More](#)

NEW Digital Flipbook of The Long Term Care Survey Manual

The brand-new digital flipbook gives you instant access to the content you rely on. Updated automatically, searchable in seconds, and always aligned with the latest CMS changes. [Read More](#)

Basic Care Resources and Training from HHS

BC

- **Therap Release Notes**

Details about the new homepage can be found here:

<https://help.therapservices.net/s/article/8320#ReleaseNotes2025.10.0.HomePage>

- **Therap Mapping Resource Guide**

Learn more about homepage mapping here:

<https://help.therapservices.net/s/article/8327#StateOSHomePage>

- **Homepage and Favorites Overview**

An overview of the new homepage layout and favorites feature is available here:

<https://help.therapservices.net/s/article/7550>

Care Compare - Complaints; info from CMS

NF

•Before the transition to iQIES, they were only displaying substantiated complaints. This was removed during the transition. The number displayed is the total number of allegations across three years. They (CMS) understand they need to clarify the change and what the number means. They will be rolling out updates as they continue to evaluate it.

It's the number of allegations across three years, not intakes. There was a filter on for substantiated intakes that led to a citation, but that filter no longer exists.

Medicaid Pharmacy updates

NF & BC

Stay informed of recent and upcoming drug coverage changes to support continuity of care and avoid prescription delays. [Read the drug coverage updates.](#)

CMS Posts Updated MDS 3.0 Quality Measure User's Manual v18.0, Including Updates to the Long-Stay Antipsychotic Medication Use Measure

NF

The Minimum Data Set 3.0 Quality Measures User's Manual Version v18.0 is now available along with associated files. [Read more.](#)

Quality

Baldrige Quality Award Program Policy Resources

All Members

The Intent to Apply is not mandatory. Those that have submitted an intent to apply should have received and will be receiving updates, best practices and important information.

Applications and reports must be written in the organization's own words. Verbatim or copied language will result in automatic disqualification.

If one person completes applications for multiple sites within a large organization, resulting in similar language, notify AHCA in advance.

Gold and Silver applications have strict technical requirements (font, margins, formatting). Failure to follow them will result in disqualification.

Renewal Timeline

- [Renewal Policy FAQ](#)

Originality

- [Application packets](#)
- [Renewal Policy FAQ](#)

Technical Requirements

- [Application Packets](#)
- [Silver and Gold Submission Templates](#)

Survey Eligibility

AHCA offers an eligibility lookup tool on its website (updated through November 2025). Even if a facility is not currently eligible, we encourage applying to gain experience and receive feedback from AHCA.

- [Program's Power BI Survey Eligibility tool](#)
-

Partner Associations

 **Nominate Your DON for North Dakota's Nurse**

Administrator of the Year!

All Members

Do you know an outstanding Director of Nursing who leads with compassion, inspires their team, and makes a difference every single day?

Now's your chance to celebrate them! The North Dakota Directors of Nursing Administration

(NDNADONA) is **accepting nominations** for the 2026 Nurse Administrator (DON) of the Year Award, to be presented at the NDLTCA 49th Annual Convention Awards Gala on Wednesday, May 6.

[Click here for the nomination form](#)

Deadline: January 15, 2026

Submit to: agoergen@good-sam.com

Nominate Your CDM for ND ANFP Certified Dietary Manager of the Year!

All Members

Do you know an outstanding CDM who excels in customer service, attitude, professionalism, volunteerism, and teamwork?

Now's your chance to celebrate them! The **North Dakota Association of Nutrition & Foodservice Professionals (ND ANFP)** is accepting nominations for the **2026 Certified Dietary Manager of the Year Award**, to be presented at the **NDLTCA 49th Annual Convention Awards Gala on Wednesday, May 6**.

[Click here for the nomination form](#)

Deadline: February 27, 2026

Submit to: zimbelmanmelanie@yahoo.com

Nominate Your Social Worker for LTCSWND Social Worker of the Year!

All Members

Do you know an outstanding Social Worker so goes above and beyond?

Now's your chance to celebrate them! The **Long Term Care Social Workers of North Dakota (LTCSWND)** is accepting nominations for the **2026 Social Worker of the Year**, to be presented at the **NDLTCA 49th Annual Convention Awards Gala** on Wednesday, May 6.

[Click here for the nomination form](#)

Deadline: January 31, 2026

Submit to: kgustavson@stanleyhealth.org

Be sure to renew their membership with LTCSWND. **Here is a link to the form,**

<https://ndltca.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/Membership-Form-2025-updated.rtf>

Medicare Advantage

Medicare Advantage Plans Denying, Delaying Medically Necessary Post-Acute Care Often, AHCA Survey Finds

All Members

[Provider Magazine](#) (12/1, 151K) reported, "With more than half of all eligible Medicare beneficiaries enrolled in a Medicare Advantage (MA) plan, a survey from the American Health Care Association (AHCA) finds that MA plans are denying or delaying medically necessary post-acute care, often against medical professionals' recommendations, on a daily and weekly basis." AHCA President and CEO Clif Porter said, "This constant hoop-jumping is resulting in too many

skilled nursing patients being discharged too soon against medical advice, threatening their recovery."

CMS To Require Medicare Advantage Plans To Submit Data On Initial Coverage Decisions, Appeals

All Members

[McKnight's Long-Term Care News](#) (12/18, Marselas) reports CMS "will soon require all Medicare Advantage plans to submit data on initial coverage decisions and appeals they process," the agency announced in a Wednesday memo. While "the mandatory reporting would begin in 2027," the agency "is currently seeking insurance company volunteers to test a pilot starting in the second half of 2026." AHCA Vice President for Reimbursement Policy and Population Health Nisha Hammel said, "This is an important step on the path to ensuring that Medicare Advantage plans offer the transparency necessary for seniors and their families to make informed decisions."

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

