



**North
Dakota
Long Term Care
ASSOCIATION**

Serving the Full Continuum of Care

NDLTCA Newsletter

March 10, 2026

All Members - *All Members*
Assisted Living - *AL*
Basic Care and Adult Residential - *BC*
Care at Home - *CH*
Home Health - *HH*
Nursing Facilities - *NF*

Happy National Long Term Care Administrator's Week!



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Most of all, making a positive difference in our residents' lives and ensuring they receive the best care possible has been the honor of my life.
— Wade Peterson

All Members

This week we celebrate the leaders who guide long term care communities with dedication, compassion, and resilience. Wade Peterson, one of North Dakota's longest serving actively licensed administrators, has spent 36 years serving residents and supporting the long term care profession.

Thank you to Wade and to all of the administrators across North Dakota who work tirelessly to make a difference in the lives of residents, families, and staff every day. Your leadership matters and your impact is immeasurable.

AND Join me in Celebrating Registered Dietitian Nutritionist Day – March 11th!

All Members

We honor the incredible Registered Dietitians and Nutritionists who help our communities thrive through healthy eating, personalized care, and expert guidance. Your dedication to wellness makes a difference every single day! 🍷

Thank you for everything you do!

ND Health and Human Services

ND QSP Updates

QSP Providers

Find the Upcoming Workshop Dates for QSP Quality and Compliance starting on March 24th, provider information on service authorizations, a 'Care in Practice' webinar series starting on March 17th, QSP Handbook updates. [Read more...](#)

Quality

The Two-Minute Drill: Turning Feedback into QAPI Action Plans

All Members

The Two-Minute Drill is a new strategy to ensure high staff engagement while providing useful feedback for making improvements. [Read More](#)

New Updates from AHCA/NCAL

VIDEO: 3 Ways Assisted Living Providers Can Lay the Groundwork for Future Success

AL

Sarah Silva, vice president of operational services at Generations, LLC and incoming NCAL Board Chair, describes how the next 15-20 years will bring huge growth for assisted living. [Watch now](#)

In Case You Missed It: Study Finds Medicare Three-Day Stay Requirement ‘Suboptimal’ for Skilled Nursing Patients

NF

Data demonstrates the inefficiency of the rule, which results in longer hospital stays and increased costs with no improved health outcomes for patients. [Read more](#)

Achieve Care Excellence with the New Provider ACE Awards

NF, BC, and AL

AHCA/NCAL is excited to announce that its in-house magazine, *Provider*, will now host the association's individual awards program. The Provider ACE (Achieving Care Excellence) Awards, formerly known as the AHCA/NCAL Awards Program, recognizes the outstanding contributions of long term and post-acute care professionals from around the country.

While the Provider ACE Awards honor individuals in our profession, the AHCA/NCAL National Quality Award Program continues to recognize long term care facilities and organizations for performance excellence.

[Read more...](#)

Regulatory

CMS MA Provider Complaint Form: Essential Updates for Providers and Billers

All Members

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) released a new online form for providers to submit complaints about Medicare Advantage (MA) plans. To access the form, providers can follow the following instructions or click [here](#).

1. Go to the [CMS website](#).
2. Select “Medicare” from the top left dropdown menu.
3. Select “Health & drug plans” from the navigation menu.
4. Select “Report a provider complaint about an MA plan”.

Access the [memo](#) and the [form](#).

[Read more...](#)

New CMS Resource Available on the Impact of Combined MDS Assessment on SNF QRP Compliance

NF

CMS has published a new fact sheet titled: [Skilled Nursing Facility \(SNF\) Combined Assessments and Annual Payment Update \(APU\) Impact: How Medicare 5-Day and Prospective Payment System \(PPS\) Discharge Combined Assessments Affect Your Facility's APU Calculation.](#)

This one-page resource for SNF providers illustrates how Medicare 5-Day and PPS Discharge combined assessments can impact a facility's Annual Medicare Payment Update (APU) calculation.

This fact sheet explains that a combined 5-day/Part A PPS Discharge Assessment counts as two separate MDSs for the SNF QRP MDS data threshold under the SNF Quality Reporting Program (QRP).

CMS also announced that providers should anticipate a more in-depth training focused on the criteria for success for the QRP APU in the near future.

If you have questions about accessing resources or feedback regarding the trainings, please email the [PAC Training Mailbox](#). Content-related questions should be submitted to the [SNF QRP Help Desk](#). Questions may also be sent to regulatory@ahca.org.

1915(c) HCBS Waiver Payments and Financing Trends

CH & AL/ARC/BC Ad Hoc Committee Members

March 24, 2026, at 2:00pm - 3:30pm ET

CMS's training will provide an overview of active Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) waiver programs under Section 1915(c) of the Social Security Act including the populations served, eligibility requirements, and the mechanisms states use to finance, pay for 1915(c) waiver services, and administer 1915(c) programs. In this training, we will share national data that spotlights key financing and payment trends.

We will highlight common state and local funding sources including intergovernmental transfers, certified public expenditures, and cost-sharing arrangements. We will also spotlight the most common payment methodologies and reimbursement strategies rates such as fee schedules, negotiated market prices, tiered rates, cost reconciliation, and capitated payments, along with supplemental payments and the use of fiscal intermediaries. Lastly, we will review key payment and financing trends relating to payments to government providers, approaches for excluding room and board costs, and examples of payments for unrelated live-in caregivers.

[Register](#)

Workforce

NLRB and DOL Release Joint Employment and Independent Contractor Classification Rules

All Members

On February 26, 2026, the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) [officially withdrew](#) the 2023 Biden-Era joint employer final rule that broadens the NLRB's definition of

“employer”. NLRB’s [new final rule](#) reinstates the 2020 Trump-era joint employer final rule, which requires companies to have substantial direct and immediate control over another employer’s workers to be considered joint employers. With the 2020 Rule formally reinstated, potential exposure for companies under the National Labor Relations Act is significantly decreased. [Read more...](#)

Organizations should:

- Review staffing agency contracts
 - Confirm who hires, pays, and supervises agency staff
 - Ensure independent contractors are correctly classified
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BCBS Update

NLRB and DOL Release Joint Employment and Independent Contractor Classification Rules

All Members

Save the Date- 2026 Summer Provider Collaboration Sessions

Join our Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Dakota (BCBSND) Provider Relations team members for the upcoming June 2026 in-person and virtual Summer Provider Collaboration Sessions.

Proposed scheduled dates and cities:

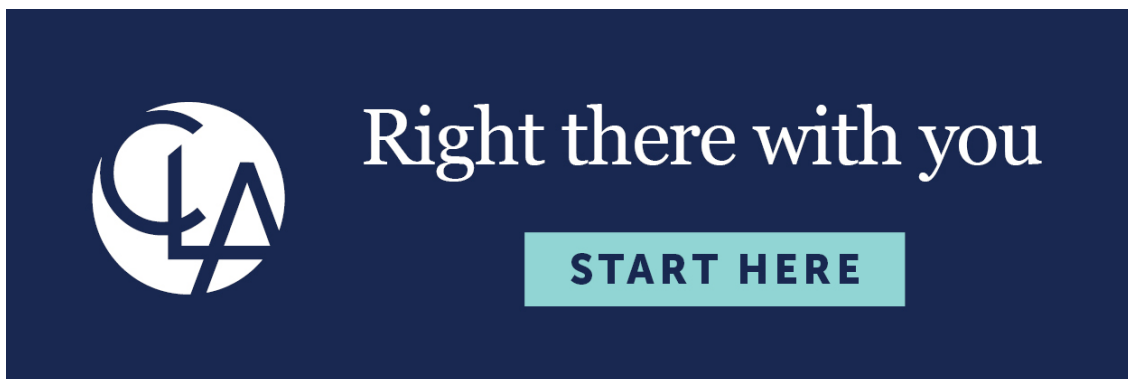
***Note:** Site locations to be determined, and only June 23, 2026, is a virtual session.

- Tuesday, June 9, 2026 - Minot, ND

- Thursday, June 11, 2026 - Bismarck, ND
 - Wednesday, June 17, 2026 - Grand Forks, ND
 - Thursday, June 18, 2026 - Fargo, ND
 - Tuesday, June 23, 2026 - **Virtual Session only**
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- Registration, agenda, and event locations will be shared in April 2026 through HealthCare News and website updates.

E-mail your topic suggestions by March 31, 2026, to prov.partners@bcbsnd.com.

Thank you for your sponsorship and support to our Bronze sponsor, CLA!





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