



NDLTCA Newsletter

April 21, 2026

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

**Thank you for your long-standing support and
Platinum sponsorship, Marsh McLennan!**

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NDLTCA Update

Calling Regions 3 & 5: Cherished Hopes Basket Donations Needed!

All Members

As we prepare for our 49th Annual Convention this May, we are excited to begin collecting baskets for our Cherished Hopes fundraiser. Each year, your creativity and generosity make a meaningful difference for residents across our facilities, and we are counting on you again! We are **asking Regions 3 and 5 to contribute themed baskets valued at \$100 or more**. Fan-favorite ideas like Self-Care & Relaxation, Wine Night in and Baking baskets are always a hit, but feel free to get creative with themes!

If you plan on donating, please contact Belma at belma@ndltca.org and let her know your basket theme so we can track contributions and ensure a great variety for the event.

Thank you for your continued support, we cannot wait to see the fantastic baskets you come up with!

Regulatory Update

Rural Health Transformation Program

All Members

CMS has released two new implementation resources for RHTP:

- [Post-Award FAQs](#) (April 2026): Guidance addressing budget management, provider recruitment and the 5-year rural service commitment, state reporting, subrecipient/contractor engagement, and other operational questions.

- [5-Year Rural Service Commitment Fact Sheet](#): A practical resource clarifying when the rural service commitment applies to individual workforce initiative beneficiaries, with worked examples and tables to assist state program officers in applying the requirement correctly.
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CMS Signals Nationwide Medicaid Provider Revalidation Effort

All Members

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has announced a forthcoming nationwide initiative focused on revalidating Medicaid providers in what it is calling “high-risk” areas.

During a recent briefing, CMS Administrator Mehmet Oz shared that states will be required to submit a plan within 30 days outlining how they will conduct provider revalidation efforts. While CMS has not yet formally defined what constitutes “high-risk,” additional federal guidance is expected soon.

At a high level, this initiative is intended to strengthen program integrity and ensure that Medicaid services are being delivered appropriately and billed correctly. Early indications suggest that the focus may include providers operating in less structured or unsupervised settings, though specifics have not yet been released.

What This Means for Providers

At this stage, there are more questions than answers—but providers should be aware of the following:

- **State action is coming quickly.** North Dakota and other states will be required to respond to CMS within a short timeframe.

- **Revalidation processes may expand.** Providers could see increased scrutiny or additional documentation requirements.
- **Scope is still unclear.** CMS has not yet defined “high-risk,” so it is unknown which provider types or services will be most affected.

NDLTCA will continue to monitor federal guidance and work closely with state partners to understand how this may be implemented in North Dakota. We will share updates and any action steps as more information becomes available.

CMS Posts Updated SNF Consolidated Billing HCPCS Code Tables

NF

CMS recently published a quarterly update to the SNF consolidated billing Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System code tables for calendar year 2026. [Read More](#)

CMS Releases Updated Five-Star Quality Rating Program Technical User’s Guide

NF

CMS recently published a quarterly update to the SNF consolidated billing Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System code tables for calendar year 2026. [Read More](#)

Upcoming PBJ Deadline Reminder

NF

The next PBJ deadline is only a month away. Providers must submit their Payroll Based Journal data for Quarter 2 (January 1 – March 31, 2026) by May 15, 2026. [Read More](#)

Education

Free CNA Training Opportunity: Geriatric ECHO Series

All Members

A free, virtual **Geriatric ECHO series designed specifically for CNAs** is now available to support frontline staff in long-term care.

This program uses a **reverse ECHO model**, where CNAs first watch a short (about 5-minute) micro-lecture on their own time, followed by a **30-minute interactive session** focused on real-life case examples and discussion. The content is practical and directly tied to what CNAs are doing every day, with an emphasis on **prevention, quality measures, and outcomes**, including alignment with the Nursing Facility Incentive Program.

The series is part of the *LTC Geriatric Learning Series: Age-Friendly Care for CNAs* and focuses on building skills using the **5Ms framework (What Matters, Medications, Mobility, Mentation, Multi-complexity)**.

What makes this especially valuable:

- Designed specifically for CNAs (new and experienced)
- Short, manageable time commitment (30-minute sessions)
- Interactive format with real-world application

- Certificate of completion available
- Sessions are recorded for later viewing

We're also proud to share that **North Dakota CNAs are serving as expert panelists**, bringing a strong frontline perspective to the discussions, including representation from St. Luke's in Dickinson, Missouri Slope in Bismarck, and Aneta Parkview Health Center.

Session Details:

- Monthly sessions (May–October 2026)
- 2:00 – 2:30 PM CT
- Topics include dignity and respect, communication, and mobility in LTC
- [Register here](#)

This is a great opportunity to support your CNA team with practical tools they can immediately apply in your care setting.

Quality



Nominations for the Provider ACE Awards are currently open!

AL, BC, NF

For 2026, AHCA/NCAL is accepting nominations for the following awards:

- AHCA Leader of the Year Award
- AHCA Noble Caregiver Award
- NCAL Leader of the Year Award
- NCAL Noble Caregiver Award
- Mary K. Ousley Champion of Quality Award
- Jan Thayer Pioneer Award

All care professionals working in AHCA/NCAL member facilities are encouraged to apply. The deadline to submit nominations is Friday, May 29, 2026, at 11:59 PM EST. Nominations must be submitted through [Award Force](#), AHCA/NCAL's awards platform.

Nursing Homes Show Quality Improvements, AHCA Report Finds

NF

[Becker's Hospital Review](#) (4/14, Taylor, 91K) reports, "Nursing homes across the nation are seeing a meaningful gain in quality improvement," according to [AHCA's 2026 Quality Update](#), published April 14. According to the report, the "improvements, measured between 2023 and 2025, show progress beyond where measures stood before the pandemic." Key improvements include an 11% reduction in nursing turnover, a 45% drop in temporary staff agency use, and a 3.8% decrease in emergency room visits.

[Skilled Nursing News](#) (4/14, Siddiqi) reports Clif Porter, president and CEO of AHCA, said, "The progress we are seeing is indicative of the never-ending commitment of nursing home caregivers to improve the lives of their residents, seek out the latest best practices, and continuously innovate." Holly Harmon, senior vice president of Quality, Regulatory, and Clinical Services at AHCA, said, "We look forward to working with policymakers on implementing better ways to advance quality improvement in the years to come, so that patients and residents can enjoy life to the fullest."

Workforce

Important Workforce Updates

All Members

- Be sure to tune into this [National Apprenticeship Week Webinar – AHCA/NCAL & OHCA Featured](#) that OHCA's Erin Hart and Dana Ritchie will be presenting on April 28th.
- Arkansas Health Care Association recently celebrated their first ever nursing class graduation (began as CNAs and now LPNs)! If you want to see an uplifting news video on the excitement around the big graduation night which occurred earlier this week, check this out: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D6JAhN3UK5Y&feature=youtu.be> . HRSA recently released data showing a [LPN shortage](#) of 30% by 2038, and these LPN graduates are needed more than ever!
- [Maintenance Director Training Course](#) on ahcancalED – live webinar AHCA/NCAL will be holding on [April 22](#) that will provide an overview of this training program.
- [NLRB and DOL Release Joint Employment and Independent Contractor Classification Rules](#) – reminder that comments on the DOL Independent Contractor proposed rule are due on [April 28](#).
- [SCOTUS to Hear Argument on Temporary Protected Status Program](#) – SCOTUS will hear oral argument during the second week of its April argument session, which runs from [April 27-29](#).
- [DOL Proposed Rule Revises Prevailing Wage Methodology for H-1B, PERM Visa Programs](#) – It is important to note that the PERM process is a required step for most employers seeking to sponsor a worker for an EB3 green card, which long term care centers utilize for hiring nurses. Comments on this proposed rule are due [May 26](#). [Please let me know if you hire immigrants and might be adversely impacted by this proposal](#).
- [CMS Issues Memo on CNA Training Flexibilities to Support Staffing in Nursing Homes](#)
- [U.S. Department of Labor Announces \\$85 million in Registered Apprenticeship Expansion Funding](#) – be sure to check this newly released apprenticeship \$ out from DOL and this [McKnight's article](#) with more information on it.

Your Feedback Matters – Global Talent Office Survey

All Members

NDLTCA are valued partners to the Global Talent Office, your insights play an essential role in helping them strengthen their programs, processes, and support.

They kindly ask that you take a few minutes to complete the survey below by April 30th:
[North Dakota Global Talent Office Survey](#)

They thank you for your partnership and for taking the time to share your perspective.

Insurance

BCBS Summer Provider Collaboration Sessions

All Members

Join our Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Dakota (BCBSND) Provider Relations team members for the upcoming in-person or a virtual Summer Provider Collaboration Session. We look forward to the opportunity to connect with each of you, provide updates, answer questions, and hear your thoughts.

These sessions are designed for individuals who work in the revenue cycle, leadership roles or administrative positions. This includes staff who handle prior authorizations, payer reviews and billing follow-up. While some topics may include a light clinical perspective, the focus is primarily on practice management and revenue cycle operations. Below is a sample of the topics we plan

to cover.

Agenda Topics

- Organization Updates
 - Cambia Affiliation update
- Plan updates
 - NextBlue
 - Medicaid Expansion
 - Commercial
- Healthcare impacts
 - Interoperability
 - Rural transformation
 - One Big Beautiful Bill impacts
- Caring Foundation updates across ND

Session options available June 2026

Registration is open for the Summer Provider Collaboration Sessions:

[Click here to register](#)



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

