



NDLTCA Newsletter

April 7, 2026

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

NDLTCA Updates

Pinnacle Survey Results – Another Strong Showing

All Members

We're proud to share that our updated Pinnacle Survey results once again exceed the national average in every category. This continued performance reflects the strong commitment of our members to quality care and resident experience across both nursing facilities and assisted living.

These results are something to be proud of and reinforce the positive impact happening every day in your communities.

[Nursing facility results](#)

[Assisted living results](#)

Rural Health Transformation – Workforce Funding Update

All Members

Following the recent announcement of the first Rural Health Transformation Program funding opportunity focused on workforce retention, North Dakota Health and Human Services has indicated that an additional round of funding will be released **May 1**.

This next opportunity is expected to expand workforce retention support beyond the initial hospital-focused funding and include nursing homes and other health care providers. We will share additional details as they become available and encourage members to consider potential workforce strategies that could align with this funding.

Education



Reminder: Early Bird deadline was Friday, April 3 but....Registration Still Available for Additional Attendees!

All Members

There's still time to take advantage of early bird pricing for the upcoming Convention & Expo! If your facility has already registered for the convention, you can continue to add additional attendees at the discounted rate through **this Friday, April 10**. This is a great opportunity to bring more members of your team to learn, connect, and be inspired—while still saving on registration costs.

If you're unsure whether your facility already has a registration on file or need assistance adding attendees, please don't hesitate to reach out—we're happy to help! belma@ndltca.org

Don't miss out—be sure to finalize your additional registrations by Friday!

2026 Year-Long Webinar Series: April Webinars

All Members

NDLTCA's year-long webinar series continues in April with three focused sessions centered on fall prevention, regulatory compliance, and MDS coding accuracy. Below is a look at what each session will cover:

Survey & Clinical Risk Management

 Tuesday, April 14, 2026 |  1:30 PM CT

Fall Prevention: Data-Driven Interventions

This session reviews evidence-based fall prevention strategies using facility-specific data to reduce falls and injuries. Participants will learn how to implement targeted interventions and monitor outcomes to improve resident safety and quality of care.

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

DON Playbook: Skills for Today's LTC Nurse Leader

 Tuesday, April 21, 2026 |  1:30 PM CT

Managing Discharges Against Medical Advice (AMA)

Facilities are now a year into implementation of the April 28, 2025 CMS Appendix PP regulatory revisions. This session will help nursing leaders verify that all required components are in place to address discharge regulations related to residents leaving Against Medical Advice (AMA). Emphasis will be placed on AMA risk assessment, communication of AMA events, and essential documentation to support compliance with the 2025 regulatory updates.

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

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

 Tuesday, April 28, 2026 |  1:30 PM CT

Rooting Out Common Coding Errors

This session is designed to help interdisciplinary team members improve MDS coding accuracy. An in-depth review of the most common coding errors impacting reimbursement, compliance, and quality care will be provided. Participants will also explore how clinical documentation, diagnosis coding, and assessment accuracy affect reimbursement, and gain practical strategies to enhance coding integrity and financial performance.

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

 Flyers and detailed schedules are available on each registration home page. If you have any questions, please reach out to Belma at belma@ndltca.org.

Quality Measure Deep Dive Webinar Series

NF

NDLTCA is excited to offer a 7-week webinar series designed to help skilled nursing facilities better understand and manage the Quality Measures (QMs) that define performance, compliance, and reimbursement.

What to Expect:

Navigate the Quality Measures that drive SNF performance with practical, real-world strategies. Participants will gain a clear understanding of how key QMs are defined, coded, and calculated, and how everyday clinical practice directly impacts overall facility performance.

 **7-Week Webinar Series | Every Wednesday, April 15 – May 27, 2026**

 1:30 PM CT

 **First Session: April 15, 2026**

Anchoring ADLs – Functional Status Measures for 5-Star Success

This session provides a focused review of functional status Quality Measures with an emphasis

on ADL coding accuracy and its impact on quality outcomes, Five-Star ratings, and reimbursement. Participants will examine how functional decline and improvement measures are calculated, common MDS coding pitfalls, and the role of interdisciplinary documentation in supporting accurate reporting. Practical strategies will be shared to help facilities strengthen functional outcomes while maintaining compliance.

 Register here: <https://ndltca.swoogo.com/QMDeepDive>

 Flyers and detailed schedules will be available on the registration page.

 Questions? Contact Belma at belma@ndltca.org

Save the Date: 2026 Summer Administrator's Conference

All Members

Mark your calendars and plan to join us for the 2026 Summer Administrator's Conference, taking place **July 21–22, 2026** in beautiful Walker, Minnesota at Chase on the Lake.

This year's conference is shaping up to be an outstanding event filled with timely topics, expert speakers, and valuable networking opportunities. We are excited to welcome Clif Porter, President/CEO of American Health Care Association, who will kick off the conference with opening remarks.

Additional featured sessions include:

- Anna Olson from Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services discussing deregulation efforts
- Kara Jorvig presenting on leadership
- Roers sharing insights on building design and remodeling best practices
- Gina Mancini covering workforce solutions
- A session from the team at Eide Bailly

- John Nelson discussing the transition from provider to policymaker
- A closing legislative roundtable to wrap up the conference

Room Block Now Open

Secure your accommodations early at:

- **Chase on the Lake**
- [502 Cleveland Blvd., Walker, MN](#)
- Phone: 218-547-7777 ext. 1
- **Block #: 184568**

More details and registration information will be coming soon—we look forward to seeing you this summer in Walker!

Thank you for your Gold sponsorship, Flint!

Stop Filling Shifts. Start Building Staff.

Flint connects your facility with internationally-sourced nurses already in the US, placed in weeks, not years.

- W2 hires with a 3-year retention guarantee
- Save 10-30% compared to agency
- No upfront cost to get started

[See How It Works](#)

www.withflint.com



Workforce

Update on Termination of Temporary Protected Status for Syria

All Members

Recently, the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services released guidance that supersedes the Update on Termination of TPS for Syria posted on March 17, 2026. [Read More](#)

U.S. Department of Labor Launches Center for Faith Website

All Members

The U.S. Department of Labor recently announced the launch of a [website](#) for its Center for Faith, following President Trump's [executive order](#) creating a White House Faith Office and federal agency Centers for Faith.

The [department's Center for Faith webpage](#) contains various resources, including information for faith organizations on potential grant opportunities. These new resources follow a recent decision from the department to add [language](#) in funding opportunity announcements that encourages faith organizations to apply for discretionary grants open to the public. You can read more on this effort on the [Labor Department's website](#).

Regulatory

CMS Releases Updated Surveyor Guidance and Clarifications

NF

Late last week, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) released an updated [QSO-26-03-NH](#) on surveyor guidance. The updated memo primarily clarifies provisions in the State Operations Manual, specifically chapters 5 and 7, introduced previously in a January 30, 2026 memo. **The updates will take effect on April 30, 2026.**

CMS Issues FY27 SNF Proposed Payment Rule

NF

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a number of rules, including the [proposed rule](#) for the skilled nursing facility (SNF) prospective payment system (PPS) for fiscal year (FY) 2027. The rule proposes a modest 2.4% increase to Medicare Part A rates in FY 2027, which we were expecting and are pleased to see.

AHCA staff are currently reviewing the proposed rule, but for now, highlights include:

- **Payment Rates:** The proposed rule would **increase SNF PPS rates by 2.4%** - or approximately \$888 million - beginning October 1, 2026. This is based on the proposed

SNF market basket increase of 3.2%, minus a 0.8% productivity adjustment. This net update will vary geographically.

- **SNF Quality Reporting Program (QRP) Updates:**

- The proposed rule would remove two measures starting in FY 2028: 1) The COVID-19 Vaccination Coverage among Healthcare Personnel measure, and 2) The COVID-19 Vaccine: Percent of Patients/Residents Who Are Up to Date measure.
- CMS is also proposing to revise the timeframe for data submission from 4.5 months to no later than the 15th day of the second month after the end of the calendar quarter beginning with the FY 2029 SNF QRP.
- The agency is also seeking feedback on one potential measure for adoption in future years: advanced care planning.

- **SNF Value-Based Purchasing (VBP) Updates:**

- CMS is providing estimated performance standards for the FY 2029 and FY 2030 program years to comply with the Program's statutory notice deadline.
- The agency is proposing to update the "snapshot dates" for two MDS-based measures (1. DC Function and 2. Major Injury [Long-Stay]) to maintain alignment with the newly proposed revisions to SNF QRP submission deadlines for MDS assessment data, beginning with FY 2027 data.

- **Request for Information on the Patient Driven Payment Model (PDPM):** CMS is asking for input on potential updates to PDPM to address Case Mix Upcoding as part of a broader effort to ensure that payment policy reflects current care practices and changes in the SNF resident population.

Learn more from the CMS [fact sheet](#) and view the proposed rule in the [Federal Register](#).

FY 2027 Hospice Proposed Rule

Hospice

(FY) 2027 Hospice Wage Index and Payment Rate Update and Hospice Quality Reporting Program Requirements [proposed rule](#). CMS has also released a [fact sheet](#) accompanying the proposed rule. The proposed rule and its wage index tables can be found here:

<https://www.cms.gov/medicare/payment/fee-for-service-providers/hospice/hospice-regulations-and-notices/cms-1851-p>. CMS also released a Hospice Monitoring Report: <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/hospice-monitoring-report-2026.pdf>.

CMS is proposing a 2.4% update for FY 2027, which reflects a 3.2% market basket percentage increase, decreased by a 0.8 percentage point productivity adjustment. The proposed cap amount is \$36,210.11. CMS is also proposing, among other things, a requirement that hospices provide the hospice election statement addendum to all Medicare beneficiaries at the time of hospice election for hospice elections beginning on or after October 1, 2026. Refer to our [summary](#) for additional details.

Additionally, we want to flag that CMS is proposing a Service and Spending Variation Index (SSVI) in the goal to identify hospices that are outliers across many different utilization and non-hospice spending metrics. To this end, CMS has [published](#) a “scorecard” that assigns a score for each hospice nationwide. The methodology for this scorecard is available on CMS’s webpage: <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/ssvi-overview.pdf>. We will be evaluating this in closer detail to inform our response and next steps.

CMS to raise MA payments by 2.48 percent in 2027, delay risk adjustment model updates

All Members

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services on Monday issued a calendar year 2027 Medicare Advantage rate announcement that is expected to raise payments by 2.48%, or over \$13 billion. That represents a greater increase than the update proposed in January. [Read more](#)

...

Comprehensive Regulations to Uncover Suspicious Healthcare (CRUSH) initiative

All Members

Both AHCA/NCAL and the National Alliance for Care at Home have submitted comments to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services in response to a Request for Information on the Comprehensive Regulations to Uncover Suspicious Healthcare initiative.

[AHCA/NCAL Comments](#)

[Alliance Comments](#)

Partner Education

Mental Health First Aid Training – Final Opportunity

All Members

The QHA Mental Health First Aid program continues to support rural communities by training health care providers, long term care staff, first responders, and community partners to recognize and respond to mental health needs and connect individuals to local resources.

The virtual training includes brief pre-work, a live instructor-led session, and offers 8.75 CE credits for a wide range of professionals. Classes are held 2–3 times per month through September 2026.

Since launching in 2023, the program has trained over 1,800 participants across 110 sessions. With the grant ending this fall and no renewal expected, this is likely the final opportunity to participate. We encourage members to share and register early as space may be limited.

Please follow [this link](#) to view and download program flyers, and follow [this link](#) to access registration and view upcoming classes.

Heart Centered Care: A Guide to Consent and Everyday Intimacy in Dementia Care

All Members

Wednesday, April 29

 1:30–3:00 p.m.

1.5 CEUs Available only when attending live.

Attend live at work, at home, or watch the recording later.

One of the most challenging—and rarely discussed—topics in dementia care.

Intimacy, consent, and human connection don't disappear with a dementia diagnosis—but caregivers

are often left without guidance.

This powerful education: ✓ Supports professional and family caregivers

- ✓ Addresses real life, everyday scenarios
- ✓ Promotes dignity, compassion, and ethical decision-making
- ✓ Fills a critical gap in Alzheimer's and dementia care education

✓ No travel. No staffing stress. Big impact.

Give your team the tools they need—without leaving residents behind.

Register today and empower your staff with knowledge that truly matters. Share the link!

<https://bit.ly/4aAnDK5>

Assisted Living

Complete the State of Seniors Housing 2025 Annual Survey

AL

Senior living providers are encouraged to participate in the *2025 State of Seniors Housing Survey* by April 20 to gain valuable industry insights. [Read More](#)



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