

Stacy Irey

From: Nikki Wegner
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Please pass along to your teams.



NDLTCA Newsletter

June 16, 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



NDLTCA Leaders Bring Long Term Care Priorities to Washington, D.C.

All Members

Last week, NDLTCA leaders joined colleagues from across the country in Washington, D.C., for congressional visits focused on issues affecting long term care providers and the individuals they serve.

North Dakota representatives met with staff from Senator Kevin Cramer's office, Senator John Hoeven's office, and Representative Julie Fedorchak's office to discuss several key priorities, including:

- CMS survey oversight and enforcement concerns.
- Medicare Advantage challenges, including prior authorization delays, reimbursement concerns, and barriers that can affect timely access to care.
- VA reimbursement and access issues impacting North Dakota's VA-contracted nursing homes and the Veterans they serve.
- Workforce challenges and federal policies affecting the recruitment and retention of caregivers.
- The need for continued support of quality long term care services in rural communities including support from the Rural Health Transformation Program.

The meetings provided an opportunity to share provider experiences directly with congressional staff and reinforce the important role long term care providers play in caring for North Dakota's older adults, individuals with disabilities, Veterans, and families.

We appreciate our congressional delegation's willingness to engage on these issues and look forward to continuing these conversations in the months ahead.

Check out this new podcast, [The Power of Showing Up: Advocating for the Long Term Care Profession.](#)

ServSafe® Certification Course and Exam

All Members

Looking to earn your ServSafe® Certification? Join Deb Strand on Tuesday, August 25, 2026, at the Grand Forks Public Works Building for an in-person ServSafe® Certification Course and Exam.

This comprehensive training prepares participants for the ServSafe® certification exam. Upon successful completion of the course and achieving a passing score of 70% or higher on the exam, participants will receive a Certification of Completion from the National Restaurant Association. Whether you're new to food service management or need to renew your certification, this course provides the knowledge and credentials needed to help ensure food safety in your organization.

For registration details and additional information, visit the NDLTCA Education page at <https://ndltca.org/education/>.

Resources Worth Reading

All Members

Looking for practical ideas, clinical insights, and operational strategies? Check out these recent articles from Provider Magazine:

[11 Steps to Improve Discharge](#)

Effective discharge planning can improve resident outcomes, reduce readmissions, and strengthen transitions of care. This article outlines practical steps facilities can take to enhance the discharge process.

[Telehealth That Works: Protecting the Progress We Made in Care](#)

Telehealth has become an important tool for improving access to care. Learn why continued support for telehealth services matters and how providers are using technology to better serve residents.

[5 Emergency Preparedness Essentials for Summer](#)

Summer brings unique risks, from severe weather and power outages to extreme heat. This article highlights key preparedness strategies to help facilities stay ready.

[A Simple Shift That Helps Facilities Get Ahead of Falls](#)

Fall prevention remains a top priority for long term care providers. Explore a proactive approach that can help identify risks earlier and improve resident safety.

[Avoiding Common ICD-10-CM Coding Concerns](#)

Accurate coding supports quality reporting, reimbursement, and compliance. This article reviews common coding pitfalls and offers tips to help teams avoid them.

Free Webinar from our Gold Sponsor, Flint

The True Cost of CNA Turnover: What Most Facilities Aren't Measuring

All Members

Wednesday, June 24 | 12:00–12:30 p.m.

CNA turnover is widely recognized as a challenge in long-term care — but most facilities are only seeing part of the cost.

Join our Gold Sponsor, Flint, for a free educational webinar that explores the full financial and operational impact of CNA turnover. This session will go beyond vacancy rates and staffing shortages to uncover hidden costs such as agency fill expenses, orientation hours, overtime and shift bonuses, productivity loss, leadership time, and the impact turnover has on resident continuity of care.

Attendees will leave with:

- A practical framework for calculating their facility's true turnover cost
- Greater insight into the operational impact of turnover
- Strategies for identifying opportunities to reduce costs and improve retention

This is a valuable session for administrators, HR professionals, nursing leaders, and anyone involved in workforce planning and retention efforts in long-term care.

Peggy Krikava sent a Microsoft Teams invitation to all members on June 9. If you did not receive the invite and would like to attend, please email Peggy at peggy@ndltca.org.

Thank you to Flint for providing this complimentary educational opportunity for our members.

Regulatory

Personal Needs Allowance Update

NF and BC

Reminder: During the 2025 Legislative Session, [HB 1485](#) increased the Medicaid Personal Needs Allowance (PNA) and established an **annual review and inflationary adjustment going forward**.

As a result, the Department of Health and Human Services has indicated that the Personal Needs Allowance will increase effective July 1, 2026 from \$115 to \$118 in Nursing Facilities and \$150 to \$153 in Basic Care.

Providers should watch for notices and guidance from the Department regarding the updated allowance amounts and any related implementation details.

The Personal Needs Allowance is the portion of a Medicaid beneficiary's income that may be retained for personal expenses such as clothing, toiletries, haircuts, and other personal items. Facilities may wish to monitor resident personal fund balances and work with residents, representatives, and care teams to identify needed personal items and purchases throughout the year, particularly for residents who do not have family or others assisting them with managing their funds.

ND Medicaid Provider Newsletter

All Members

[June 2026 Edition](#)

CMS Moratorium

HH and Hospice

The National Alliance for Care at Home has shared newly updated program integrity resources related to the CMS moratorium. These materials are designed to help members better understand the implications of the ongoing moratorium and the latest program integrity updates. New resources now available:

- **Flowchart** – Helps you determine whether the moratorium applies to you
- **FAQ** – Addresses the most common questions we've been hearing
- **Recording** – A walkthrough of the moratorium details and their implications

Check out the link below and visit our website to access these resources. Don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions. Wishing you all a wonderful week!

[Alliance Member Resources: Home Health and Hospice Moratorium](#)

Watch the recording: [Understanding the 2026 HH and Hospice Moratorium](#)

To become a member, <https://allianceforcareathome.org/membership/>.

CMS Releases Fact Sheet on OBRA Discharge Assessments

NF

CMS has released a [new fact sheet](#) to help skilled nursing facilities determine when an OBRA Discharge assessment is required. The resource provides a quick reference for MDS teams and reinforces existing guidance in the [MDS 3.0 RAI User's Manual](#).

According to CMS, an OBRA Discharge assessment is only required when a resident meets one of the following criteria:

- Is discharged from the facility to a private residence.
- Is admitted to a hospital or other care setting (e.g., Assisted Living Facility).

- Has a hospital observation stay lasting more than 24 hours.
- Is transferred to a non-certified bed.

[Read more](#)

CMS Issues Medicaid State Directed Payments Proposed Rule

All Members

CMS recently published a proposed rule that could significantly reshape how states finance Medicaid payments to nursing facilities and other long term and post-acute care providers. [Read more.](#)

Medicare Advantage Prior Authorization Reports Highlight Ongoing Concerns

NF

Recent reports from the HHS Office of Inspector General highlight ongoing concerns with Medicare Advantage prior authorization practices for post-acute care. Among the findings, 12% of requests for skilled nursing facility admission were denied, while 95% of appealed denials were later overturned in favor of the enrollee. The reports also found significantly higher denial rates for nursing home residents seeking SNF-level care.

These findings underscore concerns providers have raised regarding timely access to care, administrative burden, and reimbursement challenges. NDLTCA continues to advocate for

improvements to Medicare Advantage processes and discussed these issues during recent meetings with North Dakota's congressional delegation. We will continue working with policymakers and stakeholders to support solutions that improve access to care for residents and reduce unnecessary burdens on providers.

Recent related articles:

[Seniors Needing Care Struggle to Navigate Medicare Advantage](#)

[Medicare Advantage Organizations Overturned Nearly All Appealed Prior Authorization Denials for Skilled Nursing Facility Admission, Raising Concerns About Initial Denials](#)

[The Three Largest Medicare Advantage Organizations Denied Requests for Long-Term Acute Care and Inpatient Rehabilitation at Some of the Highest Rates](#)

Quality

Dakota Geriatrics Fall Prevention Coalition

All Members

The Dakota GWEP is organizing a statewide Fall Prevention Coalition for the purposes of bringing together individuals, organizations and providers to reduce falls, identify state or community needs, recommend policy changes, and build capacity. The first meeting will be scheduled for the week of September 21-25, National Falls Prevention Awareness Week. We are working to ensure that the coalition has a diverse representation from all over the state. If you would like to participate on the coalition or know of someone who would like to, please send an email to [Sue Thompson](#). Meetings will be held monthly and also virtually.

Workforce

Federal Court Strikes Down H-1B Visa Fee

All Members

Recently, a U.S. District Judge ruled that the \$100,000 fee for certain H-1B visas was unlawful and exceeded the authority granted to the executive branch. [Read More](#)

U.S. DOL Issues New FLSA Guidance

All Members

The U.S. DOL Wage and Hour Division recently issued four new opinion letters addressing key wage-and-hour issues under the Fair Labor Standards Act, including overtime exemptions, bonus calculations, meal periods, and compensable work time. [Read More](#)

Care At Home

Upcoming Alliance Events

CH

- June 18-25: [Palliative Care Miniseries| Palliative Transitions That Works Bundle](#)
 - June 18: [Palliative Care Miniseries | Hidden Revenue: The Palliative Patients Already on Your Census](#)
 - June 23: [The Private Duty Growth Ceiling: Why More Referrals Aren't Fixing Operational Strain](#)
 - June 25: [Palliative Care Miniseries | From Home Health to Hospice: Mastering the Palliative Transition](#)
 - July 8: [When I'm Hurting Opens Three Complex Doors for Your Organization. The Doors of ADA, FMLA+, & Worker's Comp](#)
 - July 12-14: [Finance and Technology Summit](#)
 - July 14: [July 2026 Mentorship Program – Mentee Community Office Hours](#)
 - July 14: [July 2026 Mentorship Program – Mentor Community Office Hours](#)
 - July 15: [Caring for Veterans Community Office Hours](#)
 - July 22: [The Margin Squeeze in Private Duty Care: How Agencies Can Protect Profitability](#)
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FREE!
LUNCH PROVIDED

OLMSTEAD CONFERENCE

JULY 20, 2026
FROM 8:30AM TO 4PM
at Bismarck State College

Reimagining What's Possible for Inclusion and Independence

Topics include:

- DOJ Settlement
- Technology for Independence
- XR for VR
- Benefits Planning
- Money Follows the Person
- Supported Decision Making
- Cross Disability Waiver
- Advocacy

Current Vendors Include:

- Protection and Advocacy Project
- Dakota Center for Independent Living
- DD Council
- ND Assistive
- Warehouse 13/ CareConnect

If you're interested in hosting a booth,
please contact sbouche@nd.gov

Travel and lodging stipends may be available. Please contact jhorntvedt@nd.gov

How to Register:

Click [Here](#)

Scan this QR code



Visit olmstead.nd.gov

Register by June 19th

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State Council on Developmental Disabilities
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Thank you to our Bronze Sponsor, Northland PACE for your continued support!

How a Team Approach Helps Older Adults Age in Place

All Members

Many older adults share a common goal—to remain safely and independently in their own homes for as long as possible. Known as *aging in place*, this goal is made possible through the right combination of support, coordination, and access to care.

At **Northland PACE**, participants benefit from a comprehensive, team-based approach known as an Interdisciplinary Team (IDT). This group of professionals—including medical providers, nurses, social workers, therapists, dietitians, transportation staff, CNAs, and activity staff—works together to support each individual’s medical, emotional, and daily living needs.

Rather than navigating services alone, participants receive coordinated care that evolves as their needs change. This collaborative model helps individuals maintain independence, improve quality of life, and continue living in the place they call home.

Who is eligible for PACE? Individuals must be age 55 or older, live within the service area, meet nursing facility level of care, and be able to live safely in the community with PACE support at the time of enrollment.

To learn more about how Northland PACE supports aging in place, read the full article here:

<https://ndltca.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/06/20260601-NDLTCA-article.pdf>.

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