



NDLTCA Newsletter

July 8, 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

Regional Legislative Road Trips Are Back!

All Members

Our **2nd Annual "Neighbors in Long Term Care: A District-to-District Road Trip"** has it the road, and we hope you'll join us!

These regional meetings are one of our most valuable advocacy opportunities during the legislative interim. They provide a chance to bring legislators directly into our facilities, strengthen relationships, showcase the incredible work happening across the long-term care continuum, and help policymakers better understand the challenges and opportunities facing providers in their own communities prior to the upcoming session.

Whether your facility is hosting or simply attending, **your participation matters.** A strong member presence allows legislators to hear directly from those delivering care every day. We also encourage members to support neighboring facilities by attending events throughout your region whenever possible.

Throughout the summer and fall, we'll be visiting communities across North Dakota, highlighting our continuum of care, with special focus on the differences between each level of care, while continuing important discussions on reimbursement, the Basic Care payment system, workforce,

RHTP Funding and other key legislative priorities.

Watch your inbox for calendar invitations as meetings are scheduled in your region, and we hope to see you on the road! With your advocacy, we can continue building the relationships and understanding that make effective advocacy possible.

Thank you!

Nikki and Erica

Education

Register Now: Payroll-Based Journal (PBJ) Mastery Webinar

NF

Don't miss this opportunity to strengthen your facility's PBJ reporting and compliance.

Join us on Wednesday, August 19, 2026, from 8:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. CT for this virtual training designed to help skilled nursing professionals improve PBJ accuracy, prepare for audits, strengthen Five-Star Staffing performance, and reduce regulatory risk.

Who Should Attend: Administrators and Nursing Leaders

Register Here Today: <https://ndltca.swoogo.com/PBJwebinar>

Long-Term Care (LTC) Geriatric Learning Series **Age-Friendly Care for CNAs**

Upcoming Session:
Effective Communication in LTC (Introduction)

Session 3 | July 15, 2026 | 2-2:30 PM CT

All past sessions can be found at dakotageriatrics.org.

This series enhances resident care, lowers risks such as falls and agitation, promotes person-centered care, and supports CNAs in building confidence and career growth.



UND SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
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Dakota
GERIATRICS

**North
Dakota
Long Term Care**
ASSOCIATION
Serving the Full Continuum of Care

All Members

The **LTC Geriatric Learning Series: Age-Friendly Care for CNAs** is a free monthly Zoom training designed to help CNAs build practical skills using the Age-Friendly Health Systems 5Ms Framework: What Matters, Medications, Mentation, Mobility, and Multi-complexity. The series includes expert-led presentations, real-life CNA experiences, interactive activities, and opportunities for questions and discussion. Participants can also earn a certificate of completion.

The next session is:

Effective Communication in LTC (Introduction)

 Tuesday, July 15

 2:00–2:30 p.m. CT

Please find the attached flyer and consider posting it in staff break rooms, nurses' stations, communication boards, or other areas where CNAs will see it. We would also appreciate it if you could share this opportunity through your internal email lists and staff communications.

Registration Link:

https://und.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_djnX1IEhXT6u4fk

For those unable to attend live, all sessions are recorded and available online afterward. Past sessions can be accessed here: <https://dakotageriatrics.org/past-event/>

July 2026 Year-Long Webinar Series: July Webinars

All Members

NDLTCA's year-long webinar series continues in July! Below is a look at what each session will cover:

Survey & Clinical Risk Management

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

Emergency Preparedness & Facility Wide Safety Drills

This session will provide insight into the critical components of Emergency Preparedness that are scrutinized during the survey process. Emergency Preparedness staff, Maintenance staff, and Administrators will benefit from this review of the regulatory requirements, and the tips, tools and QAPI strategies that will support an effective Emergency Preparedness program in the

facility.

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

DON Playbook: Skills for Today's LTC Nurse Leader

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

Personnel Management: Disciplinary Processes, Termination, Managing Conflict & Retention

This session will guide nursing leaders through the essential components of human resources for the nursing department. Tips and strategies for implementation of disciplinary processes, termination, conflict management and staff retention will be shared. Personnel management techniques will be discussed to prepare the nurse leader for these tasks with or without an official HR department.

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

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

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

MDS & Reimbursement Impact

This session provides a clear overview of how MDS 3.0 coding accuracy directly drives reimbursement outcomes across Medicare Part A PDPM, Managed Care, and Medicaid Case Mix methodologies. Participants will explore the financial implications of assessment scheduling, Section GG accuracy, diagnosis coding, and clinical documentation. Emphasis will be placed on understanding how MDS data translates into PDPM components and Case Mix Index (CMI) scores, highlighting key strategies to optimize payment and maintain compliance with CMS and state audit expectations.

 <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.

Regulatory

Update on Council on Quality and Leadership (CQL) Accreditation Requirements

CH

The Association continues to advocate on behalf of members providing Residential Habilitation and Community Support services regarding the CQL accreditation requirement.

Many members have shared that obtaining and maintaining CQL accreditation is costly, administratively burdensome, and not well aligned with the populations they serve, as the accreditation model was originally developed for providers serving individuals with developmental disabilities.

We recently met with North Dakota Health and Human Services (HHS) to discuss these concerns. HHS shared that it is working on proposed administrative rule changes that would allow providers to meet this requirement through alternative options, such as other nationally recognized accreditations or comparable quality initiatives.

Thank you to our members—especially Erin Sorenson with Home Instead—for providing valuable information and thoughtful recommendations that helped inform these discussions.

Looking ahead, the Care at Home Committee and Regulatory Committee will begin developing draft comments in preparation for the anticipated public comment period. We have also requested that HHS share a draft of the proposed rule changes with the Association prior to formal publication so we can provide feedback. We will keep members informed as this work progresses.

HHS Rule Requiring Acquisition of Accessible Medical Equipment

NF and BC

If the facility participates in Medicare, Medicaid, and other HHS-funded programs, the facility is required to have in place at least one accessible exam table and one accessible weight scale by July 8, 2026. [Read More](#)

CMS Issues CY 2027 Home Health Rule, Signals Interest in Home Health Palliative Care

CH

CMS issued the CY 2027 Home Health and DME [proposed rule](#). CMS also released a [fact sheet](#) accompanying the proposed rule. The Alliance issued a [statement](#) in response.

Key provisions include:

- For CY 2027, CMS proposes to increase payments to HHAs by 2.4%, or \$420 million, which reflects the impact of a 2.1% update in payments due to the statutorily-required annual payment update, a 0.3% increase in payments related to a proposed update to the Fixed-Dollar Loss (FDL) ratio used for outlier payments. CMS is proposing to implement a -3% temporary adjustment – the same as what was applied last year. Because these adjustments are “temporary,” CMS must first remove the -3% adjustment from the rate update last year before updating the payment rate by the statutorily-required payment update of 2.1% and then reapply the -3% adjustment. This process results in a payment rate increase of 2.1% compared to last year’s rate.

- A discussion regarding the provision of palliative care under the Medicare home health benefit and future sub-regulatory guidance.
- Proposed policy changes to better align the HH Quality Reporting Program (QRP) and the HH Value-Based Purchasing Model (VBP), including revisions to the data submission and correction timeframes.
- Proposed provider enrollment changes aimed at addressing fraud, waste, and abuse.
- A request for information on the construction of a home health specific wage index.
- A request for information on future measure concepts under the HH QRP, specifically on advance care planning.

Comments on the proposed rule are due by **August 31, 2026**.

See our summary on our [webpage](#). As noted above, I want to draw your attention to CMS's interest in expanding the role of palliative care in the Medicare home health benefit. While this is not the same as a community palliative care benefit, this may be of interest given our prior discussions regarding Medicare home health reform and palliative care.

UPDATED: CMS finalizing major healthcare deregulation rule

All Members

MCKNIGHTS July 7, 2026

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services appears ready to publish a major, long-awaited burden reduction rule for healthcare providers next month. [Read more...](#)

Care At Home

North Dakota launches funding opportunity to strengthen rural health care through electronic medical record enhancements

All Members

View this release online: hhs.nd.gov

The Electronic Medical Record Enhancement funding opportunity is designed to support enhancements to existing electronic medical record systems that improve service delivery and health outcomes for rural North Dakotans. Examples may include technology enhancements, expanded functionality and artificial intelligence-supported tools that help providers better manage patient care and improve operational efficiency.

Find all funding opportunities [here](#).

RHTP Tip: Have Your Strategic Plan Ready

All Members

As Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP) funding opportunities continue to be released, keep in mind that many applications require organizations to submit a **current strategic plan** as part of the application package. Given the short turnaround times between announcement and application deadlines, providers may want to review or update their strategic plan now to ensure they're prepared when new opportunities become available.

Center for Rural Health Funding Opportunity

All Members

The [Health Resources and Services Administration](#) (HRSA) has announced a new funding opportunity to assist rural communities. The [Small Health Care Provider Quality Improvement Program](#) will strengthen the quality improvement culture in small rural healthcare facilities by building capacity to effectively collect and use clinical data while implementing evidence-based approaches to improve healthcare quality, with a particular focus on improving chronic disease outcomes.

Applicants must be non-profit or public entities located in a [rural area](#). HRSA has \$5 million for up to 20 awards and recipients can receive up to \$250,000 per year over a four-year project period. The deadline to apply for this funding opportunity is August 6 at 10:59 pm Central.

How to Apply for Funding

To apply or find more information about this funding opportunity, visit [Grants.gov](#). Visit the Health and Human Services [Tips for Preparing Grant Proposals](#) and the [HRSA Grants](#) page for important information on pre-application requirements and guidance on submitting a well-thought-out application.

Any questions can be directed to Kristin Martinsen, kmartinsen@hrsa.gov.

Upcoming Alliance Education Events

CH

Mark your calendars now for these upcoming Alliance [webinars](#) and [My Alliance Community Office Hours](#)!

Education & Workforce Development

- July 22: Webinar – [The Margin Squeeze in Private Duty Care: How Agencies Can Protect Profitability](#)
- July 30: Webinar – [Decision-Making Capacity: A Hidden Risk for Healthcare Leaders and Clinical Teams](#)

Regulatory & Compliance

- July 29: Webinar – [How to Effectively Manage Medicaid Operations](#)
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Workforce

Update on TPS for Haitian and Syrian Nationals

All Members

Lawyers working with the American Business Immigration Coalition (ABIC) provided updated guidance regarding the end of TPS work permits. It is important to note that this is ABIC's attorney's own legal opinion (NOT a legal opinion from NDLTCA nor AHCA/NCAL) and interpretation of the court processes.

Employers really have at least until July 20th (over July 10th), the reasoning is as follows:

- The Supreme Court's formal mandate does not issue until July 27, 2026.
- The lower court, in the meantime, has asked the attorneys for briefs at least until July 20, 2026. While the government could choose to send their briefs earlier, work permits are still valid until the lower court complies with SCOTUS.

- The attorneys have asked USCIS to update the USCIS guidance, but even if they don't update it, the EAD permits are valid until the lower courts align themselves with the Supreme Court's decision in Mullin v. Doe. ABIC's legal counsel believes this is highly unlikely to occur before the 20th.

Please note that ABIC will discuss this updated guidance/legal opinion on their free webinar this Thursday.

Webinar Description:

- Join ABIC Action on Thursday, July 9, for a critical update on the political and legal state of play, including guidance for employers on how protect their teams and their operations.
- You can learn more and register [here](#).

We await Dept of Homeland Sec guidance on the SCOTUS ruling and will certainly share when available.

Nursing Homes Add 3,000 Jobs in June Surpassing Pre-Pandemic Levels

All Members

New BLS employment data shows the nursing home workforce has exceeded employment levels for the first time since February 2020, the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. As workforce efforts continue, industry leaders call on policymakers to prepare for an aging America. [Read more...](#)

Funding Opportunities

Advocacy

Residents Voting Rights: What You Need To Know

All Members

With the 2026 election quickly approaching, long term care providers can play a significant role in helping residents exercise their right to vote and make their voices heard. [Read More](#)

VA

VA Provider Advisor — July 2026

All Members

New community care provider website is here! and other articles, [click here.](#)

Insurance

MedPAC Releases June Report to Congress

All Members

The Medicare Payment Advisory Commission's report includes an assessment of Medicare Advantage enrollment and its impact on hospital and post-acute care providers' finances. [Read More](#)



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