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March 12, 2020

UPCOMING EDUCATION

- [Webinar: 5-Star Insights: Developing a 5-Star Work Plan – 3/18/20](#)
- [LPN IV Therapy and Basic Skills Course – 4/1/20-4/2/20](#)
- [Webinar: PDPM Master Class: Effective Meetings for PDPM \(UR/Medicare, Clinical, Triple Check\) – 4/7/20](#)
- [Webinar: 5-Star Insights: Increased ADL Help, Ability to Move Worsened, and Improvement in Function – 4/22/20](#)
- [Webinar: PDPM Master Class: Staff Development and Core Competency Essentials – 5/5/20](#)

QUICK LINKS

- [Education](#)
- [Nurse Aide and Med Aide Store](#)
- [Care PAC](#)
- [Career Center](#)
- [Vendor Search](#)
- [Affordable Care Act Scholarships](#)



MARCH FEATURED PRODUCT

nebraska health care association
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LPN IV THERAPY

Online Course Version
nehca.org

[LPN IV Therapy Course – Online Version](#)

Member Price: \$64.00



member benefits
EDUCATION

Members receive major discounts on courses, workshops, conventions, and webinars.

NNFA/NALA also provides:

- general and professional liability insurance
- infection preventionist training
- dementia care programs
- gero nurse prep

NNFA/NALA

NEW HYBRID ONLINE BNA SATELLITE LOCATIONS

The following member facilities have been approved as [NHCA Hybrid Online Basic Nursing Assistant](#) satellite locations:

- Good Samaritan Society — Colonial Villa, Alma
- Hooper Care Center, Hooper
- Linden Court, North Platte

Congratulations to these members! For more information on becoming an approved satellite classroom, click [here](#).

ASSISTED LIVING SURVEY

Nebraska Health Care Association (NHCA) has partnered with **NRC Health** to offer a brief survey of assisted living members on statewide access to Medicaid Waiver (1) assisted living services and (2) assisted living memory care services. Every assisted living administrator should have received an email from NRC Health on Feb. 27 with a link to the survey.

The goal of this survey is to provide data to support advocacy for an increased Medicaid reimbursement for these services.

The information provided will be collected and analyzed by NRC Health and is confidential. No facility-identifiable information will be shared with NHCA or any other entity, only the aggregate data will be shared. The Nebraska Assisted Living Association's Reimbursement Committee has identified "collecting data to support enhanced reimbursement" as its top priority. Your participation in this survey will provide a start in this direction.

WE NEED YOUR HELP! The survey, sent from surveys@nrchealth.com, is very brief and should only take two to three minutes to complete. **Please submit your survey response by the end of today, March 13, if possible.** If you believe that you did not receive the survey and want to participate, please contact the NHCA office at 402-435-3551.

MEMBER IN THE NEWS

Tabitha was featured by *Strictly Business* for welcoming Brian Shanks as chief financial officer. Welcome, Brian! Read more [here](#).

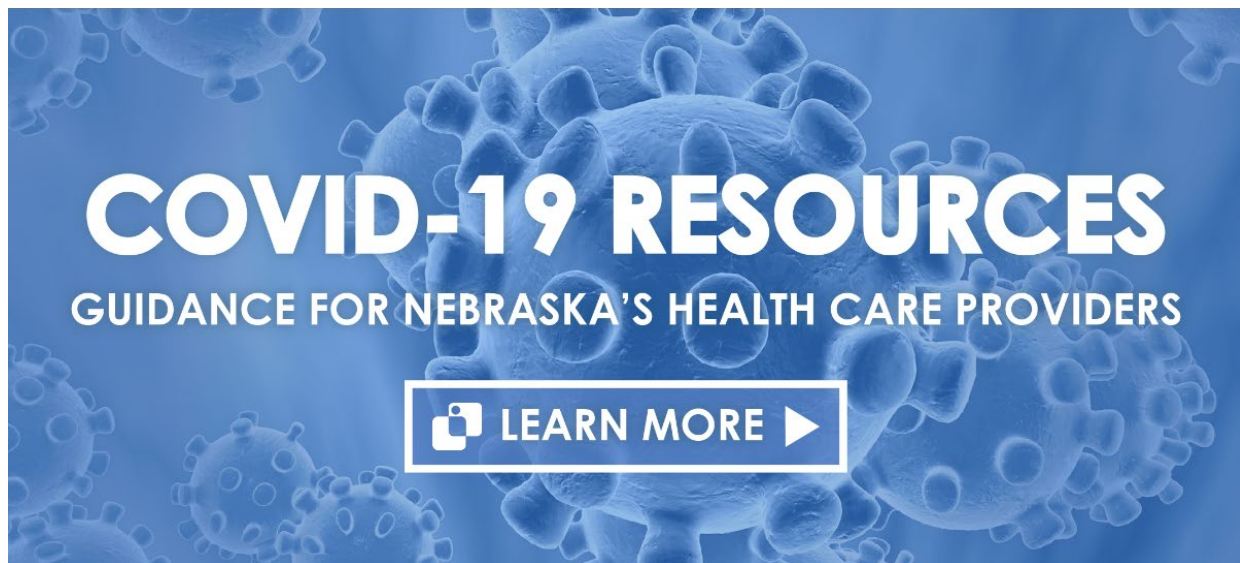
WELCOME, ADMINISTRATORS

NNFA/NALA shares the following changes to a member administrator position:

- Kristi Jarecki-Vering — Countryside Home, Madison
- Brandi Petrik — Prairie Meadows Alzheimer's Special Care Center, Omaha
- David Deemer — Hillcrest Millard, Omaha

Congratulations to these individuals on their new roles! To notify NNFA/NALA of administrator updates, contact Karen Jefferson at KarenJ@nehca.org.

COVID-19



COVID-19 RESOURCES AVAILABLE

NNFA/NALA supports your continued efforts to prevent the spread of the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) in Nebraska care communities and has developed a [COVID-19 Resources](#) webpage with information, resources, and tools designed to support you as you care for vulnerable Nebraskans. NNFA/NALA will also continue to provide regular member updates.

NHCA COVID-19 WEEKLY MEMBER CONNECTIONS

Starting Friday, March 13, 2020, NHCA will hold COVID-19 weekly member connections for nursing facilities, assisted living facilities, hospice and palliative care providers, home health agencies, and licensed practical nurses. The NHCA team will provide the latest information and resources on COVID-19. Time will be allotted for discussion and questions.

Upcoming COVID-19 Weekly Member Connections

Friday, March 13, 2020 at 11:00 a.m. CT

Friday, March 20, 2020 at 11:00 a.m. CT

Friday, March 27, 2020 at 11:00 a.m. CT

Join via Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/754856667>

Or Call: 669-900-9128 Dial Code: 754 856 667

DHHS, ICAP COVID-19 WEBINAR FOR LONG-TERM CARE

As COVID-19 continues to be monitored throughout the state, the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) in association with the Nebraska Infection Control Assessment and Promotion Program (ICAP) will host several weekly webinars on COVID-19 specific to post-acute and long-term care facilities in Nebraska.

The DHHS and ICAP teams will continue to address situation updates and essential information on COVID-19. A question and answer period will also be included. Participants can join by phone or online via Zoom.

Upcoming DHHS and ICAP Coronavirus Weekly Webinars

Thursday, March 19, 2020, 12:00 p.m. CT

Thursday, March 26, 2020, 12:00 p.m. CT

Join via Zoom: <https://unmc.zoom.us/j/183449940>

Or Call: 669-900-6833 **Dial Code:** 183 449 940

COVID-19 INTERNATIONAL CLASSIFICATION OF DISEASE CODE, INTERIM CODING GUIDANCE

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) National Center for Health Statistics will implement a new ICD-10-CM diagnosis code for COVID-19, effective with the next update on Oct. 1, 2020. See the [announcement](#) and [interim coding guidance](#) for more information.

AHCA/NCAL COVID-19 WEBINAR RECORDING AVAILABLE

The American Health Care Association/National Center for Assisted Living (AHCA/NCAL) hosted a COVID-19 webinar on Tuesday, March 3, which included an update from CDC officials. A recording of the webinar is now available [here](#). Please note that there are two versions, depending on which web browser you are using.

REVISED CMS MEMO ON COVID-19 FOR NURSING FACILITIES

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) posted a [revision](#) to its prior memo to state survey agency directors ([QSO-20-14-NH](#)) that includes revised guidance for nursing facilities on visitation and expanded use of certain industrial respirators relative to COVID-19. The revised guidance emphasizes that health care facilities should actively screen and restrict visitors meeting certain criteria and may require visitors to use Personal Protective Equipment. It also contains revisions to some frequently asked questions and directs surveyors NOT to cite facilities that are unable to obtain appropriate supplies.

CMS MEMO ON COVID-19 FOR ALL HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS

CMS posted [QSO-20-17-ALL](#), a Memo to State Survey Agency Directors with clarification of CMS policies in light of recent guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Food and Drug Administration expanding the types of facemasks health care workers may use in situations involving COVID-19 and other respiratory infections.

CMS MEMO TO MEDICARE ADVANTAGE AND PART D PLANS IN THE EVENT OF A STATE-DECLARED EMERGENCY

CMS posted a [memo](#) to Medicare Advantage and Part D Plans with information on the obligations and permissible flexibilities related to disasters and emergencies resulting from COVID-19. **Please note: At this time, Governor Ricketts has not declared a state emergency for Nebraska.** These special requirements are only in effect in states with “declared emergencies” and remain in effect until the end date identified in the state declaration or for 30 days, if no end date is identified in the declaration. For more information on the current state of COVID-19 in the United States and abroad, including which states have declared emergencies, click [here](#).

TEMPERATURE CHECKS UPON ENTRANCE TO FACILITIES

NHCA received the following guidance from AHCA/NCAL regarding whether screening of visitors to skilled nursing and assisted living facilities includes mandatory temperature checks:

1. If your Governor or state licensing/survey agency has issued guidance or a directive to do temperature checks, that is controlling in your state. This could apply to assisted living facilities as well as skilled nursing facilities. *Please note: Nebraska has not issued such guidance or directive.*
2. If your state has not issued special guidance on this, AHCA/NCAL's guidance and the current CMS guidance do not require temperature checks. They are difficult to administer, especially in assisted living settings. This guidance may change as COVID-19 is identified and spreads in communities.

REGULATIONS & REIMBURSEMENT

SNF PDPM CLAIMS ISSUE

Skilled nursing facility (SNF) patient driven payment model (PDPM) initial claims that are processed out of sequence are not paying the correct variable per diem (VPD) adjusted rate. Also, all adjustment claims are not processing correctly. Claims need to process in date of service order for each stay for the VPD to calculate correctly.

According to AHCA, CMS expects to correct this issue in October. The following guidance has been provided in the interim.

- Submit claims in sequence by waiting at least 2 weeks before billing subsequent claims
- To adjust claims:
 - Cancel the initial claim and all subsequent claims in the SNF stay then rebill in sequential order; or
 - Hold adjustments (when allowable) until October when they will process correctly
- CMS encourages providers to submit a complete bill at the time of entry.

CMS has indicated that this above information is also being shared with all Medicare Administrative Contractor provider support personnel this week. Please share this information with appropriate billing and finance staff.

PARTICIPATION IN LTC PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY STUDY ENCOURAGED

According to AHCA/NCAL, Marsh and McLennan is conducting a long-term care professional liability report for our sector. Through Marsh's National Senior Care practice and Oliver Wyman's Actuarial practice, Marsh and McLennan will now produce the Professional and General Liability Benchmark Report for Long-Term Care Providers. The information presented in this study is a critical component in various insurance industry initiatives and supports multiple state tort reform efforts. This benchmark study is also an important resource relied upon by insurance carriers, actuaries, and long-term care and senior living providers.

Your participation is essential to ensure that the loss experience of each AHCA member is reflected in the cost estimates, trend analysis, and other benchmark statistics included in the study. We strongly encourage participation in this benchmark study in order to enhance the quality of this initiative. The information Marsh and McLennan is collecting includes:

1. Individual claim listings (excluding Protected Health Information) in Excel-readable format, containing all professional liability and general liability claims. This claim listing should provide claim level detail valued as of Dec. 31, 2019. If historical valuations are also available, please include claim listings valued as of Dec. 31, 2018; Dec. 31, 2017; Dec. 31, 2016; and Dec. 31, 2015.
2. Occupied bed equivalent exposure information for the past 10 calendar years, if available.

This information should be provided separately for assisted living facilities and skilled nursing facilities. Please contact Oliver Wyman regarding the data collection process or with any additional questions at LTCBenchmark@oliverwyman.com.

PROGRAMS & RESOURCES

GAIN EDGE IN THE MARKETPLACE WITH GERO NURSE PREP COURSE

[AHCA/NCAL Gero Nurse Prep](#) is designed to prepare RNs to take the [American Nurses Credentialing Center](#) (ANCC) board certification exam in gerontological nursing. RNs who complete the Gero Nurse Prep program have a passing rate of 96 percent on the ANCC exam on their first try and they also receive 30 CEUs.

Research conducted by AHCA/NCAL in 2019 shows that nursing facilities with ANCC Board certified RNs have:

- Significantly higher average SNF Value Based Purchasing scores (44.17 versus 34.42 for the nation). Higher SNF VBP Score = Higher Medicare Part A reimbursement rates.
- Two fewer deficiencies on average (5.71 citations versus the 7.55 national average in last cycle)
- Fewer Immediate Jeopardy (IJ) citations (1.60 versus the 2.27 national average)
- More stars -- nearly twice as likely to be a CMS 5-Star facility (50% versus 28% national average)
- Significantly lower re-hospitalization rates over the last six years
- Significantly lower rates of off-label use of antipsychotics over the last five years

ANCC is the world's largest and most prestigious nurse credentialing organization and a subsidiary of the American Nurses Association. Less than one percent of America's RNs are board certified in gerontological nursing. That means having an ANCC Board certified RN can easily give providers an edge in the marketplace.

Watch this [video](#) to learn more about AHCA/NCAL Gero Nurse Prep, which can be purchased [here](#).

Nebraska Now is distributed regularly to all NNFA/NALA members for which we have email addresses.

Nebraska Nursing Facility Association and Nebraska Assisted Living Association are affiliates of Nebraska Health Care Association, American Health Care Association, and National Center for Assisted Living.

Contact NNFA/NALA at 402-435-3551 or nhca@nehca.org if you have questions, are unable to open the links, or have misplaced your password.

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