

nebraska now

November 7, 2019

UPCOMING EDUCATION

[Assisted Living Administrator Training](#) – 11/12/19-11/14/19
and 12/4/19-12/5/19

[Assisted Living Administrator Refresher – Regulatory, Staffing, Nutrition, and Care Services, Lincoln](#) – 11/12/19-11/14/19

[Webinar: End-Stage Lung Diseases and Their Hospice Management](#) – 11/18/19

[AANAC RAC-CT Certification Workshop](#) – 11/19/19-11/21/19

[Webinar: MDS Coding Precision and PDPM Audit Processes](#) – 12/3/19

[Assisted Living Administrator Refresher – Revenue and Safety, Lincoln](#) – 12/4/19-12/5/19

[LPN IV Therapy and Basic Skills Courses](#) – 12/17/19-12/18/19

QUICK LINKS

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

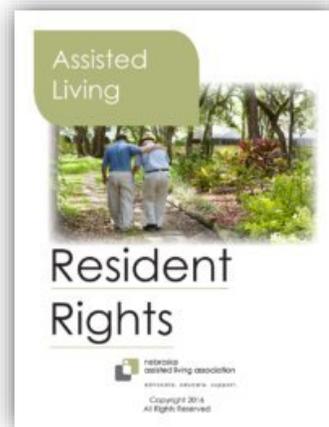


NOVEMBER FEATURED PRODUCTS



[Resident Advocacy Poster](#)

Member Price: \$9.95



[Resident Rights for Assisted Living](#)

Member Price: \$24.95

NNFA/NALA

APPLY TO SPEAK AT THE 2020 ANNUAL SPRING CONVENTION IN KEARNEY

The Nebraska Nursing Facility Association, Nebraska Assisted Living Association, Nebraska Association of Home Health Agencies, and Licensed Practical Nurse Association are accepting presentation proposals for the Annual Spring Convention, April 27-29, 2020, in Kearney.

Submit the [call for presentations application](#) to Connie Knorr, Director of Professional Development, at ConnieK@nehca.org or fax to 402-475-6289. The deadline to submit a proposal is **Friday, Feb. 7, 2020**.

View the [application](#) for additional details and submission requirements or contact the NHCA office at 402-435-3551.

WELCOME, ADMINISTRATORS

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

- Melissa VanDeWalle — Litzenberg Long Term Care, Central City
- David Deemer — River City Nursing and Rehabilitation, Omaha
- Kay Vanness — Good Samaritan Society–Bloomfield/Sunset View, Bloomfield

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

QUALITY

INTENT TO APPLY DEADLINE EXTENDED TO NOV. 21

The deadline to submit an Intent to Apply (ITA) for the 2020 AHCA/NCAL National Quality Award application cycle has been extended to Thursday, Nov. 21. The ITA is not mandatory, but members who submit can benefit by saving on their overall 2020 application fee. No paperwork is needed to submit the ITA. For more information, click [here](#).

SUBMIT YOUR DATA FOR THE QUALITY INITIATIVE RECOGNITION PROGRAM

The 2020 AHCA/NCAL Quality Initiative Recognition Program will honor member centers and communities that have achieved one or more of the AHCA/NCAL Quality Initiative goals. The recognition will take place at the [AHCA/NCAL Quality Summit](#) in Grapevine, Texas, March 9-11, 2020.

The deadline to submit your Quality Initiative data in [LTC Trend Tracker](#) is Nov. 21, 2019. Nursing facilities must submit customer satisfaction data, and all other data is automatically uploaded. Assisted living members must submit data for all the NCAL goals. If you need assistance with LTC Trend Tracker, visit the [Resource Center](#) or email help@lctrendtracker.com. For more information on the Quality Initiative Recognition Program, visit the respective websites for [skilled nursing centers](#) and [assisted living communities](#).

SNF QUALITY REPORTING PROGRAM SUBMISSION DEADLINE EXTENDED TO NOV. 18

The submission deadline for the Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) Quality Reporting Program (QRP) has been extended to Nov.18, 2019.

Assessment data for SNFs submitted during Quarter 2 (April 1 to June 30) of calendar year 2019 are due with this deadline. The lists of measures required for this deadline can be found on the [CMS QRP website](#).

As a reminder, it is recommended that providers run applicable CASPER/iQIES/NHSN analysis reports prior to each quarterly reporting deadline to ensure that all required data has been submitted. Swingtech sends informational messages to SNFs that are not meeting Annual Payment Update (APU) thresholds on a quarterly basis ahead of each submission deadline. If you need to add or change the email addresses to which these messages are sent, email QRPHelp@swingtech.com and include your facility name and CMS Certification Number (CCN).

REGULATIONS & REIMBURSEMENT

MEDICARE PART C AND D APPEALS PROCESS - UPDATED 2020 AMOUNT IN CONTROVERSY (AIC)

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has notified Medicare contractors of the update to the Amount in Controversy (AIC) required to sustain Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) or Federal District Court appeal rights beginning Jan. 1, 2020.

- The amount remaining in controversy requirement for ALJ hearing requests made on or before Dec. 31, 2019, is \$160. This amount will increase to \$170 for ALJ hearing requests filed on or after Jan. 1, 2020.
- The amount that must remain in controversy for reviews in Federal District Court requested on or before Dec. 31, 2019, is \$1,630. This amount will increase to \$1,670 for appeals to Federal District Court filed on or after Jan. 1, 2020.

For additional AIC information on the CMS site, click [here](#). For an appeal process flow chart for Medicare Part C (Medicare Advantage) and Part D (Prescription Drug Coverage), click [here](#).

SNF PAYROLL-BASED JOURNAL (PBJ) SUBMISSION DEADLINE REMINDER

Skilled nursing facilities must submit staffing data from July 1- Sept. 30, 2019, by Nov. 14, 2019. Only data successfully submitted by the deadline is considered timely and used on the Nursing Home Compare website and in the five-star rating calculations. Once a facility uploads their data file, they need to check their final Validation Report, which can be accessed in the Certification and Survey Provider Enhanced Reporting (CASPER) folder, to verify that the data was successfully submitted. It may take up to 24 hours to receive the validation report.

Note that the final validation report only confirms that data was submitted successfully. It does not confirm that the data submitted is accurate or complete. If the final validation has not been received within 24 hours, facilities should run the Final File Validation Report. This will indicate whether the files were processed successfully. Providers can also contact the Quality Improvement and Evaluation Systems (QIES) helpdesk for assistance by emailing help@qtso.com.

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) will continue to provide technical assistance to nursing homes to improve their staffing and data submissions. Facilities should review their monthly CASPER folder for feedback on their most recent submission. It is also recommended that nursing facilities run the following CASPER reports to review the accuracy and completeness of the data that they have entered: 1700D Employee Report, 1702D Individual Daily Staffing Report, and/or 1702S Staffing Summary Report. In addition, facilities should run the MDS Census reports available in CASPER to verify that their census is accurate. Be sure to run the reports early to ensure enough time to review and correct any discrepancies before the submission deadline has passed.

For technical assistance, contact NursingHomePBJTechIssues@cms.hhs.gov. For policy questions, contact NHStaffing@cms.hhs.gov. For more information, visit the [PBJ Website](#).

CMS ANNOUNCES ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE HEALTH OUTCOMES CHALLENGE

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Artificial Intelligence (AI) Health Outcomes Challenge is an opportunity for innovators to demonstrate how AI tools – such as deep learning and neural networks – can be used to predict unplanned hospital and skilled nursing facility admissions and adverse events. Partnering with the American Academy of Family Physicians and Arnold Ventures, the CMS AI Health Outcomes Challenge will engage with innovators from all sectors to harness AI solutions to predict health outcomes for potential use in CMS Innovation Center innovative payment and service delivery models. For more information, click [here](#).

UPDATED LIST OF EXCLUDED INDIVIDUALS AND ENTITIES DATABASE FILE

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office of Inspector General (OIG) has released its updated List of Excluded Individuals and Entities (LEIE) database file, which reflects all OIG exclusions and reinstatement actions up to, and including, those taken in September 2019. This new file replaces the updated LEIE database file available for download last month. Individuals and entities that have been reinstated to the federal health care programs are not included in this file.

The updated files are posted on the [OIG website](#), and health care providers have an “affirmative duty” to check to ensure that excluded individuals are not working in their facilities or face significant fines.

Instructional videos explaining how to use the online database and the downloadable files are available [here](#). As a best practice, long-term care providers should check the LEIE on a regular basis.

PROGRAMS & RESOURCES

TRAUMA-INFORMED PERSON-CENTERED THINKING AND SUPPORT WEBINAR

The National Center on Advancing Person-Centered Practices and Systems (NCAPPS) will host a webinar, Trauma-Informed Person-Centered Thinking and Support, on Nov. 18, 2019, at 1:30 p.m. CT. This webinar will explore the intersection of trauma and person-centered thinking, planning, and practice. It will emphasize actionable steps to ensure that members consider trauma when members engage in person-centered thinking, planning, and practices. Register for this webinar [here](#).

TOOLS TO PREVENT AND ADDRESS RESIDENT-TO-RESIDENT MISTREATMENT

AHCA/NCAL's Survey/Regulatory Committee has developed two new tools to support assisted living communities and nursing facilities preventing and addressing reported incidents of resident-to-resident mistreatment. The new member tools include a post-incident checklist and a provider self-assessment, as well as a compiled list of AHCA/NCAL resources. Find the tools [here](#).

GERO NURSE PREP FALL SALE

Gero Nurse Prep is on sale through Nov. 30! Save \$100 off the regular registration fee by using promo code RNHERO. AHCA/NCAL Gero Nurse Prep provides tremendous value at this member sale price at less than \$20 per contact hour for outstanding nursing education that makes a measurable difference on many clinical fronts and can give assisted living communities a competitive advantage. For RNs interested in pursuing Board certification through ANCC, there is an additional and separate cost. For more information, click [here](#).

NEW REPORT PREDICTS AMERICANS WITH DEMENTIA TO DOUBLE IN NEXT 20 YEARS

The number of Americans living with Alzheimer's disease or other dementias will double to nearly 13 million over the next 20 years, according to the new Milken Institute report [Reducing the Cost and Risk of Dementia: Recommendations to Improve Brain Health and Decrease Disparities](#).

Milken Institute research estimates that by 2020, roughly 4.7 million women in the U.S. will have dementia, accounting for nearly two-thirds of all people living with the condition. The number of both women and men living with dementia is projected to nearly double by 2040, with the number of women projected to rise to 8.5 million, and the number of men expected to reach 4.5 million (up from 2.6 million in 2020). The report was released at the 2019 Milken Institute [Future of Health Summit](#) in Washington, D.C.

NOT-FOR-PROFIT NEWS

LATEST ISSUE OF NFP NEWS AVAILABLE

The latest version of AHCA/NCAL's NFP News, a monthly newsletter for not-for-profit providers, is [now available](#).

AHCA/NCAL

AHCA/NCAL POPULATION HEALTH MANAGEMENT SUMMIT

Join AHCA/NCAL for the first Population Health Management Summit, Dec. 9-10, 2019, in Washington, D.C. Managed care is going to continue to grow, and you need to know what you can do to grow with it. Visit PHM.ahcancal.org to learn more, register, and make the commitment to secure quality care for your residents and your organization.

AHCA/NCAL CONVENTION VIDEOS SHOWCASE MEMBERS DELIVERING QUALITY CARE

AHCA/NCAL recently hosted its 70th Annual Convention and Expo in Orlando, Fla. At this year's Convention, AHCA/NCAL premiered a variety of new videos to attendees that showcased how centers and communities provide the best possible care for their residents. We encourage you to take a moment and watch these videos to hear the incredible stories of our profession's staff and residents:

- [Taking Flight](#) — Every day assisted living and senior living communities are helping residents connect with the past and look toward the future. Check out how Covenant Living and the Ageless Aviation Dreams Foundation helped retired Navy pilot Jim take flight in a World War II-era biplane.
- [Food by Norma Gay](#) — "Food is What Brings us together." Look at how Gay Pearson brings all long-term care together with her compassionate cooking for residents.
- [2019 AHCA/NCAL National Quality Award Program](#) — Learn about the Quality Award Program and how it generates quality excellence among our members.
- [2019 Gold Quality Award Recipients](#) — Learn about this year's five outstanding Gold Quality Award recipients.
- [#WhyICare](#) — Hear a compilation of stories collected this year from caregivers across the country on why they love their career in long-term and post-acute care.
- [Mark Parkinson Opening General Session Speech](#) — AHCA/NCAL President and CEO Mark Parkinson speaks to the importance of sharing all the acts of kindness and positive stories taking place in our facilities every day.
- [Michael Wylie Opening General Session Speech](#) — Past AHCA Chair Michael Wylie shares his personal story on why he cares.

SHARE YOUR FEEDBACK ON PDPM

Each week, the American Health Care Association (AHCA) will collect feedback on PDPM implementation. Please help provide valuable, real-time information by completing [this survey](#) each week. This will help AHCA address your needs through member education, resources, and advocacy with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) on regional or national issues.

GET 20/20 PDPM VISION WITH AHCA'S 2020 PDPM ACADEMY

Now that the Patient Driven Payment Model (PDPM) system is in effect for skilled nursing facilities, AHCA is looking to 2020 and how the association can help members thrive during the first full year PDPM is in effect. AHCA soon will launch its new *2020 PDPM Academy* and the existing PDPM Academy resources will be archived and no longer updated at the end of 2019.

2020 PDPM Academy will provide tools and resources to help AHCA members navigate challenges, incorporate changes, and successfully operate under PDPM. Resources available through PDPM 2020 Academy will include:

- Virtual in-depth training modules on PDPM best practices (including role-specific modules)
- Monthly webinars
- Additional tools and resources
- AHCA's analyses of CMS's technical changes and updates to PDPM
- Discounted pricing to in-person *2020 PDPM Academy* workshops

To receive an email notification when enrollment for *2020 PDPM Academy* opens, [follow this link](#) and enter your name, company name, and email address. [Signing up for the early notification](#) is fast and

easy. AHCA members who have questions now about PDPM can send an email to pdpm@ahca.org or call 202-842-4444 and ask to speak to a PDPM Resource Navigator.

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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