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December 26, 2019

UPCOMING EDUCATION

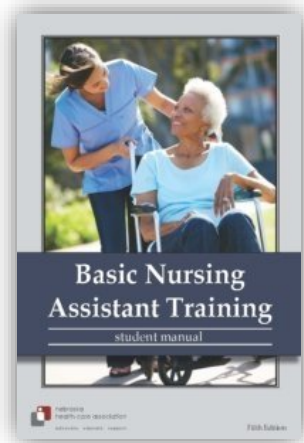
QUICK LINKS

- [Webinar: Build and Implement Crucial PDPM Policies – 1/7/20](#)
- [LPN IV Therapy and Basic Skills Courses – 1/7/20-1/8/20](#)
- [NNFA/NALA Winter District Education – 1/20/20](#)
- [NNFA Administrator Preceptor Training – 1/23/20](#)
- [Webinar: Getting the PDPM Initial Assessment Right! Best Practices for Pre-admission, Admission, and Days 1-8 Processes – 2/4/20](#)
- [LPN IV Therapy and Basic Skills Courses – 2/4/20-2/5/20](#)
- [Alzheimer’s Disease and Dementia Care Seminar – 3/3/20-3/4/20](#)

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

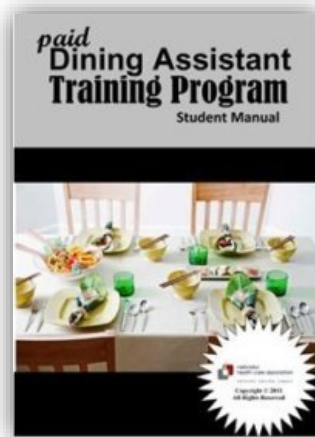


DECEMBER FEATURED PRODUCTS



[Basic Nursing Assistant Training Student Manual](#)

Member Price: \$49.99



[Paid Dining Assistant Training Student Manual](#)

Member Price: \$17.95

NNFA/NALA

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM THE NHCA TEAM!

From our team to yours, happy holidays! Thank you for being a member in 2019; we look forward to serving you in 2020! The Nebraska Health Care Association office will be closed for the holidays on Wednesday, Jan. 1, 2020.



NOW WHAT? SERIES AVAILABLE ON NET TELEVISION AND ONLINE

Since 2012, the Nebraska Health Care Foundation has provided financial support to *Now What?*, a public television series. The series addresses a variety of issues related to elder care and dementia and is produced by NET Television and the Consortium of Dementia Alternatives. *Now What?* is a two-time recipient of a Nebraska Broadcasters Association Award of Excellence under the category of Service to Community and endorsed as an educational resource by the American Health Care Association (AHCA).

The next program in the series is *Now What? Understanding Mental Health* and will air on NET World at the following times:

- Thursday, Jan. 2, 7:00 p.m. CT
- Sunday, Jan. 5, 12:00 p.m. CT

Members are encouraged to share the program with patients, families, staff, and community. The entire series of programs can be viewed [here](#).

NEBRASKA HEALTH CARE FOUNDATION SEEKS DONATIONS

The Nebraska Health Care Foundation (NHCF) is seeking donations of gently used medical equipment such as wheelchairs, mattress pads, mechanical lifts, etc. All donated equipment will be used for long-term care education and training classes.

If you would like to donate an item, please contact Connie Knorr at conniek@nehca.org or 402-435-3551 by Friday, Jan. 10. NHCF will pick up donations within 100 miles of Lincoln. Thank you in advance for your support!

WELCOME, ADMINISTRATORS

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

- Margie Broman — Colonial Acres, Humboldt
- Karen Connely — Off Broadway, Broken Bow
- Katie Fester — The Waterford at Miracle Hills, Omaha
- Tracey Gabehart — Westgate Assisted Living, Omaha
- Tara Gabel — Hillcrest Country Estates – Cottages, Papillion
- Allen Gamble — Regional West Garden County Nursing Home, Oshkosh
- Jade Hamner — Omaha I Bickford Cottage, Omaha
- Rachael Hurley — Colonial Manor of Randolph/Colonial Estates, Randolph
- Melissa Larson — Ridgewood Retirement Community, Bennington
- Debra Lee — Western Nebraska Veterans Home, Scottsbluff
- Mark Rosenblatt — Ridgeview Towers, Tecumseh
- Brianna Thompson — Good Samaritan Society – The Sandhills Assisted Living, Alliance
- Miriam Wall — Carl T. Curtis Health Education Center – Nursing Home, Macy

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

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, Jan. 17, 2020**.

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

QUALITY

TMF HEALTH QUALITY INSTITUTE REPLACES GPQIN AS NEBRASKA'S QUALITY IMPROVEMENT ORGANIZATION

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has selected TMF Health Quality Institute as Nebraska's new Quality Improvement Organization-Quality Improvement Network (QIO-QIN), replacing the Great Plains Quality Improvement Network (GPQIN). TMF's territories include Nebraska, Texas, Arkansas, Mississippi, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

TMF was awarded CMS's 12th Scope of Work contract for these territories with the following quality improvement efforts.

- Improving medication safety and behavioral health outcomes
- Improving the safe use of opioid medications
- Preventing infections
- Improving chronic disease self-management
- Reducing harm in nursing homes
- Improving nursing home resident mobility and function
- Reducing emergency department visits and hospital admissions or readmissions

NHCA has learned that TMF, which is based in Austin, Texas, has been contacting nursing facility administrators by phone to explain its role and request participation in nursing facility quality improvement activities.

REGULATIONS & REIMBURSEMENT

FOURTH QUARTER LTC STATISTICAL QUARTERLY REPORT DUE JAN. 24

The third quarterly Long-Term Care Bed Utilization and Occupancy report for 2019 is due Jan. 24, 2020, to the Nebraska DHHS Office of Health Statistics. Submit your statistics via email attachment as a Word document to Carla.Becker@nebraska.gov. Note that the first quarter report will be due April 24, 2020.

NURSING FACILITY RESIDENTS COVERED UNDER MEDICAID AT RECORD HIGH

While occupancy at nursing facilities throughout the U.S. stayed flat between quarters 2 and 3 of 2019, the proportion of residents covered under Medicaid hit a record high and the share of Medicare residents fell to a record low. Recent data analysis from the National Investment Center for Seniors Housing and Care indicates that Medicaid accounted for two-thirds of resident stays at nursing facilities from July 1 to Sept. 30, 2019. During this time, fee-for-service Medicare dipped to a record low of 10.9 percent, and managed Medicare accounted for 6.3 percent of all patient stays. For more information, click [here](#).

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 ADDRESSES MEDPAC'S RECOMMENDATION TO ELIMINATE SNF CRITICAL MARKET BASKET UPDATES

American Health Care Association (AHCA) President and CEO Mark Parkinson recently issued a statement in response to the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission's (MedPAC) updated skilled nursing facility (SNF) margins.

"MedPAC's recent Commission meeting session on SNFs demonstrates what we already know: the future of long term and post-acute care providers is at risk. Centers across the country are closing, leaving seniors and their families with no place to go for care. MedPAC reports that SNFs are averaging a -0.3 percent margin. That means that many providers are losing money while struggling to keep their doors open," said Parkinson.

Parkinson added, "SNFs are still trying to understand the implications of the new payment system launched in October. We must take steps to ensure the most vulnerable in our country have access to quality long term and post-acute care. MedPAC recommendations to eliminate critical market basket updates are not the answer – particularly in light of ongoing serious Medicaid rate challenges among states, as well as CMS proposals impacting Medicaid."

CHANGES IN LONG-TERM CARE PRESENT OPPORTUNITIES, CHALLENGES

The American Health Care Association and National Center for Assisted Living (AHCA/NCAL) held the first Population Health Management Summit for long-term and post-acute care leaders, Dec. 9-10, 2019, in Washington, D.C.

The event brought together leaders in long-term and post-acute care to explore opportunities and challenges related to quality, value, and risk as health care approaches great changes in the future. A detailed summary of the event's messages can be found [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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