

nebraska now

October 10, 2019

UPCOMING EDUCATION

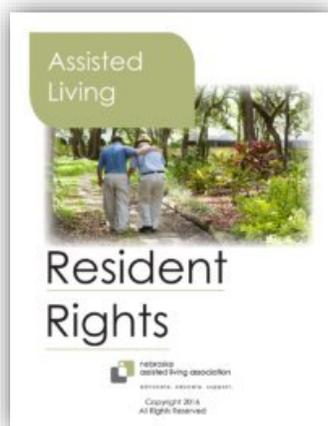
- [Bronze Quality Award Training, Lincoln](#) – 10/22/19
- [Silver Quality Award Training, Lincoln](#) – 10/23/19 – 10/24/19
- [Structuring Your Restorative Nursing, Lincoln](#) – 11/5/19
- [Webinar: Skilled Nursing Supportive Documentation for PDPM](#) – 11/5/19
- [Restorative Nurse/Aide Program, Lincoln](#) – 11/6/19
- [Assisted Living Administrator Refresher – Regulatory, Nursing, Staffing, Nutrition, and Care Services, Lincoln](#) – 11/12/19-11/14/19
- [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

QUICK LINKS

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

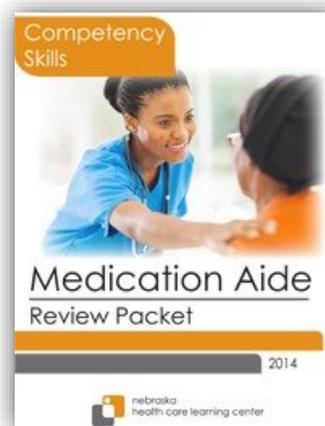


OCTOBER FEATURED PRODUCTS



[Resident Rights for Assisted Living](#)

Member Price: \$24.95



[Medication Aide Review Packet](#)

Member Price: \$8.00

NNFA/NALA

NHCLC SEEKS INSTRUCTORS AND SITE PARTNERS

Instructors

The Nebraska Health Care Learning Center (NHCLC) seeks registered nurses and licensed practical nurses interested in teaching or testing Basic Nursing Assistant classes as a training or testing site. Once approved as instructors for NHCLC, instructors can test or teach at approved site partners that are located across Nebraska. Nurse aide clinical skills testing can only be done by a registered nurse. Licensed practical nurses who teach the class will need to have registered nurse oversight. An LPN or RN with at least one year of experience in long-term care is ideal. Teaching, mentoring, or coaching experience is preferred.

What are benefits to becoming an instructor?

- Nurses who become one of NHCLC's approved instructors will be reimbursed by NHCLC for their time spent teaching the class or testing. Hours are on an as-needed basis, according to the instructor's availability separate from other employment.
- Instructors structure classes or testing around their schedule. There is no obligation to teach a certain number of hours each month to remain on our approved instructor list. When offering hours for a class or for testing, those hours are suggested by you, with your current schedule in mind. Those hours are then approved with the facility site partner.
- If your facility is an approved NHCLC site, this is a great way to expose possible future employees to your facility.

Site Partners

NHCLC seeks partners interested in hosting Basic Nursing Assistant classes as a training or testing site. These sites provide the training as it meets facility and community needs within the specified guidelines of the Health and Human Services Regulations and the agreement with NHCLC. NHCLC contracts with nurses in the community to help provide the training. Testing can also be provided at your facility. Nurse aide clinical skills testing can only be done by registered nurses.

What are the benefits of becoming a site partner?

- Bring nurse aides into your facility! This can serve as a great way to introduce your facility as a possible future employer.
- It is free to sign up! As a benefit to our membership, there is no cost to the facility site partner other than supplying the room and supplies to host the class or testing. A list of needed supplies is provided.
- Nurses who become one of NHCLC's approved instructors will be reimbursed by NHCLC for their time spent teaching the class or testing. Hours are on an as needed basis, according to the instructor's availability separate from other employment.
- NHCLC advertises the class on our website! This is of no cost to NHCLC site partners.
- NHCLC encourages registered nurses or licensed practical nurses from your facility to apply to become instructors, but we may have instructors who are already approved that are located in your area who could help teach or test.

If you are interested in becoming an Instructor or Site Partner, please contact NHCLC at 402-435-3551 or email Jana Reed, Registrar, at JanaR@nehca.org.

FALL CONVENTION WRAP UP

The Nebraska Nursing Facility Association and Nebraska Assisted Living Association held their annual fall convention in conjunction with the Nebraska Association of Home Health Agencies and Licensed Practical Nurse Association of Nebraska, Sept. 23-25, 2019, in Lincoln. Thank you to all who attended.

View the [2019 Fall Convention photo album](#) and the [2019 Nebraska Health Care Foundation Golf Tournament photo album](#) on our Facebook page.

SAVE THE DATE FOR SPRING CONVENTION

The 2020 NNFA/NALA/NAHHA/LPNAN Spring Convention will be Monday, April 27, 2020, to Wednesday, April 29, 2020, at the Younes Conference Center in Kearney. Watch your inbox for more information.

THE TEAM THAT'S HERE TO SERVE YOU

The team at the Nebraska Health Care Association is honored to support the needs of its members and students through the Nebraska Nursing Facility Association, Nebraska Assisted Living Association, Nebraska Hospice and Palliative Care Association, Nebraska Association of Home Health Agencies, Licensed Practical Nurse Association of Nebraska, Nebraska Health Care Learning Center, and Nebraska Health Care Foundation. Their areas of experience and expertise are diverse. From a wide range of care settings, they are experts in public policy, quality improvement, nursing, administration, fundraising, marketing, finance, and technology.

Learn more about your NHCA team [here!](#)

WELCOME, ADMINISTRATORS

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

- Nicole MacIntosh — Skyview Care and Rehab at Bridgeport, Bridgeport
- Lisa McDermed — Arbor Care Centers, Franklin LLC, Franklin
- Andrew Bowman — Good Samaritan Society, Arapahoe/Samaritan Suites, Arapahoe
- Jennifer Coffman — Monument Rehabilitation and Care Center, Scottsbluff
- Martin (Marty) Brown — Azria Health Ashland, Ashland
- Elizabeth Sharp — 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.

JOHN CROGHAN CHOSEN AS A FUTURE LEADER IN LONG-TERM AND POST-ACUTE CARE

John Croghan, Executive Director of The Landing at Williamsburg Village in Lincoln, has been chosen by the American Health Care Association and the National Center for Assisted Living (AHCA/NCAL) as a future leader in long-term and post-acute care. Croghan will join the association's year-long Future Leaders program that offers training and guidance for long-term and post-acute care professionals.

Since 2004, AHCA/NCAL has hosted long-term and post-acute care professionals in the Future Leaders program. Selected participants demonstrate leadership potential and represent the interests of both

state and national long-term care providers. The program covers the latest theories and practical applications in quality management, customer satisfaction, and leadership. The program kicks off with a two-day symposium, "Future Leaders of Long-Term Care in America," held each year in Washington, D.C.

"John's leadership has had an impact on long-term care for both The Landing at Williamsburg Village and Nebraska," said Heath Boddy, President and CEO of NNFA/NALA. "His involvement with the Nebraska Assisted Living Association and his community's status as an AHCA/NCAL Silver Quality Award recipient – an immense achievement – proves his passion for promoting high-quality health care. We couldn't be prouder to have John representing our great state at the national level through the Future Leaders program."

Join NNFA/NALA in congratulating John on this honor!

MEMBER IN THE NEWS

The Central Nebraska Veterans Home in Kearney was featured by NTV News in a story about restocking their pond with 300 new rainbow trout for residents to enjoy. Read more [here](#).

SPECIAL BULLETINS

[NNFA 2019-07 – Revisions to Appendix Q: Guidance on Immediate Jeopardy](#)

Appendix Q to the State Operations Manual (SOM), which provides guidance for identifying immediate jeopardy, has been revised. The revision creates a Core Appendix Q that will be used by surveyors of all provider and supplier types, including health, emergency preparedness, and life safety code surveys in determining when to cite immediate jeopardy. CMS has drafted subparts to Appendix Q that focus on immediate jeopardy concerns occurring in nursing facilities and clinical laboratories since those provider types have specific policies related to immediate jeopardy. Appendix Q has been revised to reinsert language referring criminal acts to local law enforcement. For more information, click [here](#).

[NNFA 2019-08 – Updates to Civil Money Penalty \(CMP\) Reinvestment Resource Materials](#)

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has updated and added CMP reinvestment resources to its [webpage](#). Updated resources include the following:

- CMP reinvestment resources
- CMP reinvestment state plan resources
- State CMP reinvestment projects funded in calendar years 2017 and 2018
- Examples of CMP-funded projects as well as non-allowable uses of CMP funding

For more information, click [here](#).

QUALITY

2019 NATIONAL QUALITY AWARDS ITA DUE NOV. 7

In 2014, the AHCA/NCAL National Quality Award program implemented a new recertification policy, which impacted all current and previous recipients. Under this policy, Bronze and Silver Quality Award recipients have three years to apply for the next award level (Silver or Gold) before being designated as a “past recipient” of the award, a status that requires the center to reapply at the Bronze level if it decides to participate in the program again.

The 2020 award cycle is the final year for Bronze and Silver recipients from 2017 to apply for the next award level before being designated as a “past recipient.”

The Intent to Apply (ITA) process for the 2020 AHCA/NCAL National Quality Award application cycle is open. The deadline to submit an ITA payment is Nov. 7, 2019, at 7:00 p.m. CT. The ITA is not mandatory, but members who submit can benefit by saving on their overall 2020 application fee. For more information, click [here](#).

NNFA/NALA TO HOST QUALITY AWARD TRAINING

NNFA/NALA will hold a [Bronze Quality Award Training](#) on **Oct. 22, 2019**, and a [Silver Quality Award Training](#) on **Oct. 23-24, 2019**. Bronze Quality Award workshop participants will leave with a completed application, and Silver Quality Award workshop participants will leave with a draft version of the application.

ANNOUNCING THE 2020 QUALITY INITIATIVE RECOGNITION PROGRAM

The National Quality Initiative Recognition Program honors member skilled nursing centers and assisted living communities for their work in achieving the goals of the AHCA/NCAL Quality Initiative. All achievers will be recognized at the AHCA/NCAL Quality Summit in Grapevine, Texas, March 9-11, 2020.

Achievers will be determined by the data submitted to LTC Tracker by Nov. 21, 2019. For more information, click [here](#).

REGULATIONS & REIMBURSEMENT

THIRD QUARTER LTC STATISTICAL QUARTERLY REPORT DUE OCT. 18

The third quarterly Long-Term Care Bed Utilization and Occupancy report for 2019 is due Oct. 18 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 fourth quarter report is also due Jan. 24, 2020.

NCAL REPORT: STATES CONTINUE STRENGTHENING ASSISTED LIVING REGULATIONS.

Assisted living regulations, statutes, and policies in 27 states were updated between June 2018 and June 2019, according to the National Center for Assisted Living's (NCAL) 2019 edition of the [“Assisted Living State Regulatory Review.”](#) View Nebraska's assisted living state regulatory summary [here](#).

CMS TO UPDATE NURSING HOME COMPARE OCT. 23

On Oct. 23, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) will make several changes to the Nursing Home Compare website and the Five-Star Quality Rating System. These changes will affect the health inspection and quality measure (QM) domains for skilled nursing facilities

On Tuesday, NHCA [notified](#) members about CMS's plan to add an alert icon on Nursing Home Compare to facilities that have been cited for abuse, neglect, or exploitation.

According to the American Health Care Association, CMS has now published updates to the Five-Star Technical Users' Guide stating facilities that receive the abuse icon will have their health inspection rating on Nursing Home Compare capped at a maximum of two stars. Based on the methodology used to calculate the overall rating, the best overall quality rating a facility flagged for abuse can have is four stars.

In addition, CMS will be removing two quality measures from the Five-Star Quality Rating System. These measures are:

1. Percentage of short-stay residents who report moderate to severe pain.
2. Percentage of long-stay residents who report moderate to severe pain.

As a result of dropping these two measures, the cut-points for the long-stay, short-stay, and overall QM ratings will change starting later this month. Overall, these changes will maintain the same distribution of short-stay and long-stay QM ratings that were posted on Nursing Home Compare in July 2019. The new cut-points are shown in the table below.

Point Ranges for the QM Ratings (as of October 2019)

QM Rating	Long-Stay QM Rating Thresholds	Short-Stay QM Rating Thresholds	Overall QM Rating Thresholds
1-star	155-469	144-473	299-943
2-stars	470-564	474-567	944-1,132
3-stars	565-644	568-653	1,133-1,298
4-stars	645-734	654-739	1,299-1,474
5-stars	735-1,150	740-1,150	1,475-2,300

Note: The short-stay QM rating thresholds are based on the adjusted scores (after applying the factor of 1,500/800 to the unadjusted scores).

NEW RAI MANUAL RELEASED

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services has released the latest version of [the MDS 3.0 RAI Manual v1.17.1](#) and MDS forms, effective Oct. 1, 2019. This version of the MDS 3.0 RAI Manual incorporates clarifications to existing coding and transmission policy; it also addresses clarifications and scenarios concerning complex areas. Since the preliminary release of the manual on May 20, 2019, changes have been made to clarify which assessments swing bed providers must complete; the definition of the "interruption window" for interrupted Part A-covered stays; the coding of item I0200B; and changes related to group therapy policies, as well as other corrections.

CMS POSTS UPDATED PUF DATA

The Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services has posted its first annual release of Post-Acute Care and Hospice Utilization and Payment Public Use Files (PAC PUF) with data for 2017. The PAC PUF files provide summarized information on services provided to Medicare beneficiaries by home health and hospice agencies, skilled nursing and inpatient rehabilitation facilities, and long-term care hospitals. Click [here](#) to view the 2017 PAC and hospice PUF data.

CMS ACTION TO KEEP FRAUDSTERS OUT OF MEDICARE & MEDICAID

The Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a final rule with comment—*Medicare, Medicaid, and Children's Health Insurance Programs; Program Integrity Enhancements to the Provider Enrollment Process (CMS-6058-FC)*—that strengthens CMS's ability to stop fraud before it happens by keeping unethical providers out of federal health insurance programs. Read the final rule with comment [here](#).

PROGRAMS & RESOURCES

UPCOMING PRIMARY INFECTION PREVENTION COURSE

The Nebraska Infection Control Network will host a Primary Infection Prevention Course, Nov. 7-8, 2019, at the Nebraska Medicine campus in Omaha. The course offers a combination of lectures, discussions, and educational activities pertaining to the prevention and control of infections in a variety of health care settings. Download the brochure [here](#). For registration information, click [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](#).

2019-2020 INFLUENZA RESOURCES FOR HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS

A new MLN Matters Article SE19022 on [2019-2020 Influenza \(Flu\) Resources for Health Care Professionals](#) is available. Learn about payment and coverage for the influenza vaccine.

TOOLS TO PREVENT AND ADDRESS RESIDENT-TO-RESIDENT MISTREATMENT

AHCA/NCAL's Survey/Regulatory Community 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](#).

MAPHABIT MOBILE APP WINS LONG-TERM CARE AWARD

[MapHabit](#), a mobile software program that visually guides individuals with dementia and their caregivers through their daily activities has won the National Institute on Aging's \$250,000 first prize in the mobile technology competition. The developers were invited to present their application to the United Nations in September.

Using visual cues, the application prompts users to follow simple commands to perform individually customizable daily tasks, such as taking pills or brushing teeth. It also provides downloadable print outs to post as reminders. The MapHabit application also offers benefits for long-term care facility residents and staff.

The MapHabit application is available for free download in the [App Store](#) and the [Google Play Store](#).

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](#).

PDPM

CMS POSTS REVISED PDPM DLL PACKAGE

Last week, skilled nursing facility members received an [alert](#) from the Nebraska Health Care Association that the American Health Care Association (AHCA) had identified problems with the PDPM grouper DLL package (V1.002 FINAL) and had notified the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). The PDPM DLL package is the software code that skilled nursing facility software vendors use as part of the PDPM classification grouper programs within the MDS software packages to generate the PDPM billing case mix codes (physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech-language pathology, non-therapy ancillary, and nursing).

Yesterday, CMS updated its MDS 3.0 Technical Information [webpage](#) and posted a revised version of the PDPM DLL package (V1.0003 FINAL) and removed the previous version. CMS asserts the new version corrects the four bugs in the previous package's software code. AHCA suggests members contact their IT Vendors to determine when they will have a sense of how well the update works.

MANUAL UPDATES FOR PDPM IMPLEMENTATION

This week, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) issued the following three important manual updates for PDPM implementation.

1. The Medicare General Information, Eligibility, and Entitlement Manual PDPM [update](#) contains minor updates to certification guidance.

2. The Medicare Benefit Policy Manual PDPM [update](#) contains minor updates to the SNF benefit period and benefit days sections in chapter 3, as well as major changes to the SNF PPS guidance in chapter 8.
3. The Medicare Claims Processing Manual PDPM [update](#) provides substantial updates to the chapter 6 SNF PPS claims processing instructions.

These updates will be discussed during the American Health Care Association's upcoming Week 2 of *PDPM Implementation Status Update* member webinar on Friday, Oct. 11, 2019, from 2:00 – 3:00 p.m. CT. Register for the webinar [here](#).

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.

2020 PDPM ACADEMY

The American Health Care Association (AHCA) will provide ongoing support and resources throughout PDPM implementation as the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) makes changes. The 2020 PDPM Academy will provide tools and resources to help Academy members navigate challenges, incorporate changes, and successfully operate under PDPM. Resources will include virtual training modules on CMS PDPM updates, monthly webinars, additional tools and resources, and AHCA analyses of CMS's technical changes and updates to PDPM and helpful checklists to incorporate the changes. To pre-register for the PDPM Academy or for additional information, contact the PDPM Resource Navigators at pdpm@ahca.org or (202)-842-4444.

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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