

The Academy Weekly

News & Information for LTC Providers



The Academy of Senior Health Sciences, Inc.

www.seniorhealthsciences.org

Week of 08 June 2020

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Ohio News

[Reimbursement fix waiting on Gov's signature; update on July 1 rates](#)

The House agreed to Senate amendments to a bill that included the nursing home reimbursement "veto fix" language. The bill now goes to the Governor's desk where he is expected to sign it this week. It contains an emergency clause that would make the provisions of the bill effective when signed, thus impacting July 1 SNF Medicaid rates. Changes in the language include increasing the funding amount for the "5165.26" from 2.4% of base rates to 5.2% of base rates. We estimate this to be about \$84 million in

additional funding for nursing homes in SFY 2021. The language also clarified the exclusions to the quality measure such as new facilities and change of providers during SFY 2021. Furthermore, providers that undergo certain renovations or experience a force majeure event that impacts occupancy are exempt from the 80% occupancy requirement. In a call with the Ohio Department of Medicaid related to rate setting, ODM said they are waiting on a handful of cost reports before they can calculate July 1 rates. The Medicaid days on the cost reports are used to calculate the pool of quality dollars and occupancy, both key components to the quality payment amount. The Academy has estimated the point value. While they would not commit to a time rates would be finalized, they anticipated having them done by the end of July at the latest. During the call ODM also said they would reconsider using the 2018 Family Satisfaction Survey results because so many providers do not have results of from that survey. ODM also confirmed that they would be using the CY2019 four quarter CMS NH compare data; however, there was some debate as to which cut points to use. The statutory language is silent to the cut points and ODM said they would reconsider using the CY2018 cut points. We will keep you updated as we learn more. ([Back to top.](#))

Dr. Acton changing roles at ODH

Ohio Department of Health Director Dr. Amy Acton resigned from that position last week. Dr. Acton will remain at ODH that will allow her to focus on public health. Dr. Hurst, Chief Medical Officer for ODH, will also resign towards the end of June. Dr. Acton led ODH's response to COVID. She has faced increasing questioning of the department's policies to close Ohio's businesses during the pandemic and the reopening process. Some leaders have been calling for her resignation for several weeks. Dr. Acton has indicated that the stress of the challenges of the pandemic along with the time away from family led to the decision. Lance Himes, former interim Director of Health under Gov. Kasich, will resume that role until a new director is found. ([Back to top.](#))

ODM releases plan on studying move to PDPM

CMS made the move to the Patient Driven Payment Model and different assessment schedule, leaving states that use RUGS-IV in a dilemma. The issue is related to parts of the MDS that are needed for RUGS-IV, but not PDPM, that CMS plans to remove. CMS has extended the time states have to determine how they are going to calculate case mix scores and collect the necessary data before making changes. ODM is taking advantage of that time to study the impact a move to PDPM would have on Medicaid rates. To do this, SNF providers would have to submit the necessary PDPM data on the OBRA assessments. The software vendors would have to adjust the fields used for the OBRA assessments. ODM has said the change would be effective October 1, 2020. If you have any questions or concerns

about this approach, [please contact The Academy](#) by close of business tomorrow (6/16/2020). ODM would like to move forward quickly to ensure time for the necessary system changes and training. ([Back to top.](#))

First HCICs approved list

The Ohio Department of Medicaid provided The Academy with a list of the first Health Care Isolation Centers (HCICs) approved by the department:

Name	Zone	City	Effective Date
Lutheran Village at Wolf Creek	1	Holland	April 30, 2019
Lutheran Home at Toledo	1	Toledo	April 29, 2019
Anna Maria of Aurora	1	Aurora	April 29, 2019
Parkside Nursing & Rehabilitation Center	3	Fairfield	May 13, 2020
Twin Towers	3	Cincinnati	May 14, 2020
Sycamore Glen Health Care	3	Miamisburg	May 15, 2020
Liberty Retirement Community of Lima	3	Lima	May 22, 2020
Liberty Nursing Center of Mansfield	1	Mansfield	May 22, 2020
Eastgate Health Care Center	3	Cincinnati	May 27, 2020
Pleasantview Care Center	1	Parma	May 27, 2020
Gateway Healthcare Center	1	Euclid	June 8, 2020

HCICs have dedicated wings for COVID-19 probably or positive individuals. They are to provide excess capacity for hospital systems. HCICs receive a higher reimbursement to provide services to individuals with suspected or confirmed cases of COVID-19. Please visit [The Academy's COVID-19 website](#) under Local Collaboratives and HCICs for more information, including how to become an HCIC.

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BELTSS proposed rule changes

The Board of Executives of Long-Term Services and Supports is proposing changes to two rules. The first would align the Board's examination subject areas to those of NAB. The second is a new rule that clarifies distance learning for the purposes of distance learning. For more information, including the proposed changes, on these and other proposed rule changes, [please visit BELTSS website by clicking here.](#) ". Comments, questions, or

suggestions are due to Deborah Veley at dveley@age.ohio.gov no later than July 1, 2020. ([Back to top.](#))



National News

CMS COCA call: Applying COVID-19 Infection Prevention and Control Strategies in NHs

During this CDC Clinician Outreach and Communication Activity (COCA) call scheduled for June 16, presenters will use case-based scenarios to discuss how to apply infection prevention and control guidance for nursing homes and other long-term care facilities that are preparing for and responding to COVID-19. If you are unable to attend the live COCA Call, the recording will be available for viewing on the [COCA Call webpage](#) a few hours after the live event ends. The slide set will be available under "Call Materials" on the [COCA Call webpage](#). Continuing Education will not be offered for this COCA Call. Advanced registration is not required.

Webinar Info: <https://www.zoomgov.com/join/acUtm595wd>

Webinar ID: 161 554 3668

Date: Tuesday, June 16, 2020

Time: 2:00pm-3:00pm (ET)

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National Nursing Home Training Call: Managing COVID+ residents

Topic: Clinical Care: Managing COVID Positive Residents

Date: Thursday, June 18, 2020

Time: 4:00 – 5:00 PM ET

Advance Registration Required: [Register here](#). Note: Once you register, you will receive an email with your individual link to join the webcast. The link you receive will only work for one user. Please forward this email to other team members if you would like them to attend so they can register.)

Audience: Open to nursing home leaders, clinical and administrative staff members and others interested in nursing home infection prevention in the era of COVID-19.

Event Description: The National Nursing Home Training Series is brought to you by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and the QIO Program, a national network of Quality Innovation Network-Quality Improvement Organizations (QIN-QIOs) serving every state and territory. Every Thursday through July 2020, we're bringing you a one-hour live webinar featuring experts on different aspects of infection prevention in the nursing home setting.

Invitations are distributed weekly for each training in the series. [Sign up here for updates.](#) Miss a training? View recordings, slides and resources on QIOProgram.org.

This Week's Topic: Clinical Care: Managing COVID Positive Residents

The clinical management of COVID positive and presumed COVID positive residents requires understanding the various disease trajectories and having appropriate plans of care in place that align with each residents' goals and preferences. It also requires working with medical directors and clinicians to have the needed medications and other treatments available. This webinar will review the key considerations for the clinical management of COVID positive and presumed COVID positive residents. ([Back to top.](#))

CMS MLN Connects

News

- [Nursing Home COVID-19 Data and Inspections Results Available on Nursing Home Compare](#)
- [Trump Administration Encourages Reopening of Health Care Facilities](#)
- [HHS Announces New Laboratory Data Reporting Guidance for COVID-19 Testing](#)
- [Prior Authorization Process and Requirements for Certain Hospital OPD Services: Payment for Related Services](#)

Events

- [Medicare Documentation Requirement Lookup Service Special Open Door Forum – June 25](#)

MLN Matters® Articles

- [July 2020 Integrated Outpatient Code Editor \(I/OCE\) Specifications Version 21.2](#)

- [July Quarterly Update for 2020 Durable Medical Equipment, Prosthetics, Orthotics, and Supplies \(DMEPOS\) Fee Schedule](#)
- [National Coverage Determination \(NCD\) 160.18 Vagus Nerve Stimulation \(VNS\)](#)
- [Quarterly Update for the Temporary Gap Period of the Durable Medical Equipment, Prosthetics, Orthotics, and Supplies \(DMEPOS\) Competitive Bidding Program \(CBP\) - October 2020](#)

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ODDS AND ENDS

REMINDER: Please submit your daily PPE/vent/capacity survey

Providers are reminded to submit their capacity survey to the state on a daily basis. [Please click here to submit your survey and bookmark/save the link so you can submit daily.](#)

ODM seeking volunteers for this week's testing in Zone 2

ODM is seeking volunteer nursing homes from Zone 2 for employee and resident testing during the week of 6/15. Volunteers can contact CCURT@odh.ohio.gov.

NOTABLE DATES OR EVENTS

[CGS: myCGS ATC](#)
June 11, 2020

[Click here to view CGS Part A training events](#)

[Click here to view CGS Part B training events](#)

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