

The Academy Weekly

News & Information for LTC Providers



The Academy of Senior Health Sciences, Inc.

www.seniorhealthsciences.org

Week of 01 November 2020

No *Weekly* next week as we take a break after our Fall Conference. We will keep you updated on important news with Academy Updates until the next *Weekly* is issued on November 23.

Ohio News

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Ohio News

Visitation, family gatherings, hot topics as holidays approach

The increase in COVID cases is arriving at a time when nursing homes are providing more options for visitation. While the nice weather has allowed for the continuation of outdoor visitation at some facilities, it will probably not last until Thanksgiving and the early winter holidays. Providers are

reminded to follow the CMS guidelines in [QSO-20-39-NH](#) and the [ODH visitation guidelines](#). CMS also has an [FAQ document](#) related to visitation. And while the guidelines say that facilities should restrict visitation in CMS red prevalence counties, it also allows for compassionate care and end of life visits. ODH has said on several calls that failure to allow family visitors during an end of life situation could end-up in an IJ citation. While providers struggle with visitation, the holidays also create another risk - residents leaving the facility to visit with family. ODA Director McElroy said that she was "not comfortable" to allow providers to prevent a resident from leaving; there are resident right and other issues that are of concern, she noted. Providers need to remind residents and their families of the risk not only to their loved one, but also the other residents of the facility should they choose to leave. Providers may want to work with families on how to reduce the risk should they leave the facility, or creating an alternative that is less risky within appropriate guidelines. Also, providers have to determine how to handle the return of residents that leave, including risk factors and quarantining. If they have not already done so, providers need to be thinking of IPC policies that incorporates these scenarios within the CDC and other appropriate guidelines now in preparation of the holidays. Communicating these policies to residents and family members will probably make the holidays better for everyone. ([Back to top.](#))

ODH requires NHSN reporting; distributing gowns this week

ODH has updated their COVID reporting requirements for nursing homes. [From the ODH COVID reporting webpage:](#)

"CMS-certified long-term care facilities shall submit point-of-care SARS-CoV-2 testing data, including antigen testing data, to CDC's National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN). This requirement to submit data to CDC's NHSN applies only to CMS-certified long-term care facilities. Test data submitted to NHSN will be reported to appropriate state and local health departments using standard electronic laboratory messages. CMS-certified LTC facilities may still connect to ODH directly to submit line level results electronically until NHSN connection is achieved. Other types of LTC facilities may voluntarily report testing data in NHSN to fulfill state reporting requirements described above or connect to ODH directly to submit line level results electronically as described above."

In other news, ODH notified providers via EDIC last week that they would be distributing gowns beginning today. From the EDIC: "Beginning next week (November 9, 2020), the Ohio Department of Health's Receipt, Stage, Store (RSS) warehouse will begin distributing an allotment of one (1) case of medical and one (1) case of non-medical gowns to each of Ohio's registered nursing homes. The direct delivery of these PPE items is intended to support the sustainment of the nursing home PPE needs.

Shipments

- Nursing homes will receive a direct shipment of PPE through the following delivery methods:

- o UPS Shipment
- Shipment tracking information will be emailed to the point of contact for each facility receiving a shipment through UPS.

PPE Temperature Control

With fluctuating climatological conditions of the fall season and in order to maintain maximum efficacy and shelf life expectancy, PPE storage must meet the following requirements:

- Remain in their original packaging until needed
- Store In a hazard-free environment (clean air)
- Keep away from direct sunlight
- Store In a climate-controlled area, with humidity and temperature within the acceptable range specified on the packaging
- Normal climatic conditions should not exceed +86 °F (+30 °C) and not exceed 80% Relative Humidity (RH)

If you have any questions, please contact the Ohio Department of Health at RSS@odh.ohio.gov ([Back to top.](#))

Notes from the ODH provider meeting

The ODH meets with the LTC provider associations on a regular basis. Below are notes from last week's meeting:

**PPE* - ODH said that footwear/booties are not a required part of PPE Also, face shields are not a substitute for a face mask, such as a surgical mask. Assisted living providers are to follow the same fit testing and other requirements for N95 masks. It is a OSHA requirement.

**County color* - ODH said they are following the CMS county colors and CMS definition of an outbreak.

**Restrictions on leaving the facility* - As noted in the article above, ODA director McElroy said that providers cannot prevent residents from leaving the facility to visit with family.

If you have a question you would like addressed at the next provider meeting, [please contact The Academy](#) prior to Monday at 9 AM. ([Back to top.](#))

Visitation dashboard update

ODH continues to make improvements and learn more about the user interface of the visitation dashboard. From ODH:

- Facilities that need to make updates to their information in the visitation dashboard can now do so. For example, if your license number is incorrect, the administrator has changed

or the address is incorrect, you now have the ability to make those changes for your facility in the dashboard.

- Your license number needs to be in the following format: ####N or ####R
- Additionally, ODH asked for the Medicaid number; however, if you don't put your license number please enter your Medicare number instead.

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Scripps LTC Advisory Group annual meeting

The Scripps Gerontology Center at Miami University held its annual LTC Advisory Group meeting last week. The advisory group includes a host of interested parties, including The Academy, that discuss past Scripps achievements and provide ideas for future studies. Below are notes from the meeting:

Family Perspectives During Long-Term Care Covid-19 Visitor Restrictions.

Jane Straker presented results from a survey of families of long-term care residents conducted in Spring 2020. Her results show that families who were informed and had communication with long-term care communities were more positive about those communities. The full report, a tip sheet, and a webinar can be found [here](#).

Questions and suggestions included:

- How much do you think the concerns of families have changed since this study months ago?
- If you asked today, would people still be thinking about moving their residents out?
- If you consider the 7 pillars of wellness, we have focused on the physical health aspect over all others.
- The visitation restrictions fail to account for the very different population and needs of assisted living residents. It isn't surprising that more AL families considered moving the resident out given the lesser care needs of AL residents.
- Suggestion to do the study again and see how responses have changed over time.

The Impact of Area Agency on Aging Partnerships and Programs on County-Level Health Outcomes

Traci Wilson and Amanda Brewster (U of Cal. Berkeley) presented highlights from studies on the effects of Area Agency on Aging work on county level health outcomes. AAAs that have formal partnerships have impacted county health outcomes, while AAAs that have engaged in evidence-

based programming also have shown positive county-level effects. We also engaged in gathering information about AAA activities during the COVID-19 emergency that resulted in a blog post and a journal article.

Health Affairs article:

[Linking Health And Social Services Through Area Agencies On Aging Is Associated With Lower Health Care Use And Spending](#)

Health Affairs Blog post:

[To Support Older Adults Amidst The COVID-19 Pandemic, Look to Area Agencies On Aging](#)

Journal of Aging and Social Policy article:

[Fast-track Innovation: Area Agencies on Aging Respond to the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)

Questions and suggestions included:

- Did you consider different kinds of partnerships, i.e. health care payers as well as providers?
- Are these partnerships all kinds—both formal and informal?

The Ohio Population Website: Visualizing Ohio’s Aging Population with the New Interactive Data Center—Matt Nelson

Matt Nelson provided an overview of the new Interactive Data Center that can be found on the Scripps Ohio Population [website](#). Matt’s presentation focused on options for viewing and downloading population projections of Ohio’s older adults, interactive maps, and data visualizations of difficulty/disability.

Questions and suggestions included:

- How are we providing this information to legislators? Needs to be one-page, social media or small chunks of information.
- Would be great to add race/ethnicity along with gender to be able to combine these numbers with other county information.
- Harvard has data that provides some indicators down to zip code level on things such as food and economic insecurity. Would be interesting to overlay some of that data along with the county age composition to see impacts on Ohio’s older adults.

Some of the future research ideas posited by group members included the following areas:

- Workforce and turnover
- Nursing home occupancy
- AAA and community partnerships

- Lessons learned from the PHE, what are they and how to use them going forward
- Long-term impact of COVID on communities/elderly
- Increasing social connections

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National News

CMS releases toolkit for HCBS

From CMS: "The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) are delivering on their commitment to foster innovation in Medicaid by providing states with new tools to help beneficiaries return home from institutional settings without sacrificing safety or quality of care. CMS launched a new toolkit designed for state Medicaid agencies to strengthen their infrastructure and develop robust home and community-based services (HCBS) for eligible beneficiaries. This toolkit is the latest in a series of CMS efforts to promote high quality, person-centered HCBS to safely transition older adults and individuals with disabilities back to their homes and communities, and decrease reliance on nursing home care.

The toolkit provides states with examples of innovative state models and best practices to rebalance their long-term services and supports (LTSS) programs to expand the use of HCBS over institutional services. LTSS enables millions of Americans, including children, individuals with disabilities, and older adults, to have their care needs met in a variety of settings, which are often more cost-effective than traditional institutional settings. As the primary funder of LTSS nationally, Medicaid plays an important role in supporting state efforts to achieve a more equitable balance between the share of spending and use of services and supports delivered in individuals' homes and communities as compared to institutional care.

States continue to be at the forefront of innovation in designing new models for the delivery and financing of LTSS. CMS supports state efforts to help older adults and people with disabilities to access care and services at home and in other community settings, so they may live their lives with as much dignity and independence as possible. CMS is committed to helping states to strengthen and enhance their LTSS systems, and ensure that Medicaid beneficiaries receive high quality, cost-effective, person-centered services in the setting of their choice.

For further information, visit: <https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/long-term-services-supports/downloads/ltss-rebalancing-toolkit.pdf>

To view the fact sheet on Long-term Services and Supports (LTSS) Rebalancing Toolkit, visit: <https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/fact-sheets/long-term-services-and-supports-ltss-rebalancing-toolkit-fact-sheet>"

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CDC Updates

From the CDC:

***Updated* Interim Clinical Guidance for Management of Patients with Confirmed Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19)** – When SARS-CoV-2 and influenza viruses are co-circulating, clinicians should consider both viruses, as well as co-infection, in patients with acute respiratory illness symptoms because of similar signs and symptoms. For additional clinical care information, see [Interim Clinical Guidance](#).

***Updated* Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Healthcare Personnel During the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic** – This guidance has been updated to include the following:

- different options for screening individuals (healthcare personnel, patients, visitors) prior to their entry into a healthcare facility
- information on factors that could impact thermometer readings
- resources for evaluating and managing ventilation systems in healthcare facilities
- link to Frequently Asked Questions about use of Personal Protective Equipment
- an explicit recommendation that facilities to develop policies and procedures to ensure recommendations are appropriately applied in their setting, including in emergency department and home healthcare delivery settings

To learn more, please visit: [Infection Control Guidance](#).

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CMS MLN Connects

News

- [COVID-19 Vaccine: Find Out How to Prepare](#)
- [Hospital Price Transparency: Requirements Effective January 1](#)
- [SNF Quality Reporting Program: October Refresh](#)

- [Flu Shots: Each Visit is an Opportunity](#)

[Compliance](#)

- [Inhalant Drugs: Bill Correctly](#)

[Events](#)

- [CMS-CDC Fundamentals of COVID-19 Prevention for Nursing Home Management Call — November 5](#)

[MLN Matters® Articles](#)

- [Special Provisions for Radiology Additional Documentation Requests](#)
- [Update to Chapter 10 of Publication \(Pub.\) 100-08 - Enrollment Policies for Home Infusion Therapy \(HIT\) Suppliers](#)
- [October Quarterly Update for 2020 Durable Medical Equipment, Prosthetics, Orthotics and Supplies \(DMEPOS\) Fee Schedule — Revised](#)
- [Penalty for Delayed Request for Anticipated Payment \(RAP\) Submission -- Implementation — Revised](#)
- [Quarterly Update to the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule Database \(MPFSDB\) – October 2020 Update — Revised](#)

[Publications](#)

- [Medicare Wellness Visits](#)

[Multimedia](#)

- [SNF Quality Reporting Program: Confusion Assessment Method Video Tutorial](#)
- [SNF Quality Reporting Program: Brief Interview for Mental Status Video Tutorial](#)

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**2020 ASHS/OANAC Fall Conference:
Live Webinars November 11, 12 and 13.**

*****REGISTRATION CLOSED*****

PREMIER THERAPY

2020 ASHS/OANAC Fall Conference Sponsor

Contact Eric Kennerk (ekennerk@embracepremier.com) to learn more about partnering with Premier Therapy.



Phase 3 General Distribution Payments now available to healthcare providers to cover expenses and lost revenues attributable to COVID-19
HRSA
Health Resources & Services Administration

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ODDS AND ENDS

COVID-19 Vaccine Policies & Guidance

CMS is sharing information you need in order to be ready for the COVID-19 vaccine when it's available. The goal -- prepare a wide pool of providers to administer the COVID-19 vaccine to ensure it's available at no cost to every American. **The CDC also has a webpage** related to

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NOTABLE DATES OR EVENTS

ASHS/OANAC Fall Conference
Via live webinars!
Nov 11, 12 and 13
[Click here to register!](#)

Use Renewed ABN By

the COVID-19 vaccine, including information on the LTC Pharmacy Partnerships.

Upcoming webinars this week

QIN-QIO COVID-19 Workshop: Building Patient Trust

During this conversation, we will discuss a three-pronged approach that organizations can adopt to build patient trust and rise to the challenges of health care consumerism as redefined by COVID-19. November 12 from 10:30 to 11 AM. [Click here to register.](#)

CMS Chicago - "Real Time": Price Transparency

November 12 at 10 AM EST. To join, go to

<https://letsmeet.webex.com/letsmeet/k2/j.php?MTID=tfe4c11033ee9822ab9fb529e40721ead> Password: 4VPnn6QUWp3

REMINDER: Please submit your CDC report

Providers are reminded to submit your mandatory COVID-19 report at least once a week to NHSN:

<https://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/ltc/covid19/index.html>

[1 January 2021](#)

[Click here for QIO training series.](#)

[Click here for CMS NH COVID-19 Training Modules](#)

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

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

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