

The Academy Weekly

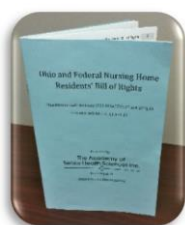
News & Information for LTC Providers

The Academy of Senior Health Sciences, Inc.

www.seniorhealthsciences.org

Friday, 27 April 2018

The date and time you receive *The Weekly* may change over the next few months. Believe it or not, data suggests that Friday's are not always the best time to deliver a newsletter. We will be doing our own research on our readers to determine the best time to send the newsletter to maximize engagement with our subscribers.



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Ohio News

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Ohio News

1. House Speaker vote set for mid-May

As we head into the home stretch for the primary elections, the Ohio House of Representatives will allow a little time for the dust to settle before electing a new leader. The abrupt departure of Speaker Rosenberger over questions of his travels abroad left House members suddenly searching for a new leader. The selection of a new Speaker now has magnified the pseudo race to be the next Speaker occurring in the primaries. Rep. Householder and Rep. Smith have been jockeying for the gavel in the primaries. Regardless, the House has planned a vote for the next speaker on May 15. The majority party has several choices, from choosing a legislator leaving in December to voting in Rep Householder or Smith. The outcome of the primaries may influence what the party decides to do. Any prediction on who the next speaker will be is at best an educated guess as of now. ([back to top](#))

2. Malnutrition Prevention Commission issues report

The Malnutrition Prevention Commission issued its report last week. The commission, created in H.B. 580, was tasked with creating recommendations to reduce malnutrition among older Ohioans. After several meetings and collecting data, the commission released 16 recommendations in three different categories: Education and Awareness, Data and Evaluation, and Prevention Models: Team-Based Care. The report recommendations mostly "encourage" providers to work together to end malnutrition, and address issues such as screening for those at risk for malnutrition and working towards ensuring those identified are receiving the necessary services to prevent malnutrition. A section of the report is dedicated to current dietary regulations in nursing homes. The report also notes that better nutrition in the community can lead to fewer hospital and nursing home days. ([Please click here to view the full report.](#)) ([Back to top](#))

3. Exception reviews, RCS-I and more at our Spring Conference!

The 2018 OANAC/ASHS Spring Conference is right around the corner! This year's conference, Friday, May 18 at the Quest Conference Center in Columbus, OH, will focus on issues related to the MDS and assessment coordinators. ([Click here to see the full agenda.](#)) Learn the latest on the MDS exception reviews. Get prepped for RCS-1. And earn up to 6.0 BELTSS CEUs (ASHS-30-P-18) for as little as \$110. Don't wait - this low member rate ends May 4!. ([Register today by clicking here!](#)) ([back to top](#))

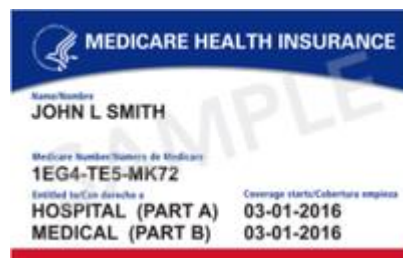
4. Free pens! Help market OBLTSS

The Ohio Department of Medicaid is offering free pens to providers that provide services to individuals who receive or may receive long-term services and supports. OBLTSS is ODM's online portal and phone number that helps consumers identify long-term service and support providers in their area that can meet their needs. The pens have the toll-free number consumers can call to receive help with LTSS in the community. Business cards with information on how to access OBLTSS are also available. The cards can be given to consumers upon admission or when discharge planning. Help spread the news - ([download the order form by clicking here.](#)) Please place your order by May 4. ([back to top](#))

5. AL Waiver Committee looks at reimbursement, ECL

The AL Waiver Committee met this week for the second time. The committee is charged with looking at barriers to participation and possible alternative methods of delivering similar services. In the last meeting, reimbursement was considered a barrier to providers participating. The committee was presented with several documents comparing the AL Waiver rate to the rates of other similar services in different settings, suggesting there is room to increase the rate. Furthermore, the proposal to consolidate the tiers and create a separate memory care rate was also presented. The committee also looked at enhanced community living (ECL). ECL allows people living in a setting of 6 or more to receive assistance at the level they require. It is an alternative to Assisted Living that allows for more flexibility in the provision of services. Some regulatory changes, such as the minimum of serving 6 in a setting, would help that program grow. The committee has until July 31 to submit its report. ([back to top](#))

Federal News



6. SNN: Managed care impacting SNFs

Skilled Nursing News reported this week on the increased penetration of Medicare managed care in the SNF space. ([Click to read full article.](#)) Medicare managed care is up to 33% of beneficiaries, and enrollment growth is expected to continue between 4 and 8 percent a year. Fifty percent enrollment may not be far-off. And the Medicare managed care companies are more focused on the bottom line. This is causing SNF providers to think differently about how to compete for MA beneficiaries. Quality measures that impact the MA's bottom line, such as hospital readmission rates, and length of stay are areas some SNFs are focusing on. The increase in managed care consumers will also put added pressure on SNFs to enter into risk-sharing or episodic payment arrangements. ([back to top](#))

7. Wolters Kluwer: Provider responsible for ensuring transmission of QM data

A recent blog by Wolters Kluwer looks at a recent hearing that involved the transmission of quality data to CMS: "When a provider is required to submit data to CMS by entering data into a system that verifies the data and then transmits it to CMS, it is the provider's duty to ensure that the data is actually transmitted to CMS. The Provider Reimbursement Review Board (PRRB) held that it is not enough to simply input information into the system when there are mechanisms in place to confirm that the data was successfully transmitted to CMS (*Horizon Home Care & Hospice v. National Government Services*, PRRB Hearing, Dec. No. 2018-D30, Case No. 16-0143, March 29, 2018)." [Click here to read the full blog.](#) ([back to top](#))

8. CMS MLN Connects Provider eNews

[News & Announcements](#)

- [New Medicare Card: Help Your Patients](#)
- [CMS Changes Name of the EHR Incentive Programs and Advancing Care Information to "Promoting Interoperability"](#)
- [Protect Medicare and Medicaid: Report Fraud, Waste, and Abuse](#)
- [Hospital Inpatient Quality Reporting Program: Submission Deadline May 15](#)
- [IRF, LTCH, and SNF Quality Reporting Programs: Submission Deadline May 15](#)
- [Open Payments Review and Dispute Data by May 15](#)
- [MACRA Funding Opportunity: Deadline Extended to May 30](#)
- [STD Awareness Month: Talk, Test, Treat](#)

[Provider Compliance](#)

- [Proper Use of the KX Modifier for Part B Immunosuppressive Drug Claims — Reminder](#)

[Upcoming Events](#)

- [Medicare Cost Report e-Filing System Webcast — May 1](#)
- [CMS Quality Measures: How They Are Used and How You Can Be Involved Webinar — May 2](#)
- [Quality Payment Program: Answering Your Frequently Asked Questions Call — May 16](#)
- [Settlement Conference Facilitation Expansion Call — May 22](#)

[Medicare Learning Network® Publications & Multimedia](#)

- [Quarterly HCPCS Drug/Biological Code Changes: July 2018 Update MLN Matters Article — New](#)

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