



OANH Special Services



OANH Premier Partners



Become a Premier Partner!

FRIDAY, JANUARY 9, 2009 HEADLINES:

[128th General Assembly begins](#)

[February education class will feature popular convention speaker](#)

[Growth in national health spending slows](#)

[Update from CMS](#)

[CHAMPS: your resource for product selection and competitive pricing](#)

[QIS training is coming!](#)

[Dates announced for Workers' Comp spring seminars](#)

[Secure your 2009 booth NOW!](#)

[PAC Golf Outing set for May 18](#)

[Call for presentations for OPC3 Conference due Jan. 30](#)

128th General Assembly begins – The political landscape of Ohio has changed. This past November, the Democrats took the house for the first time in 14 years, and 33 members of the House are new. As expected, Rep. Amond Budish (D-Beachwood) was elected as Speaker, while Rep. Bill Batchelder (R-Medina) accepted the role of House minority leader. A desire for bipartisanship rang from both leaders and the difficult budget situation facing Ohio will test that resolve. Rounding out the majority leadership are Rep. Matt Szollosi (D-Oregon) as speaker pro tempore, Rep. Jennifer Garrison (D-Marietta) as majority floor leader, Rep. Tracy Heard (D-Columbus) as assistant floor leader, Jay Goyal (D-Mansfield) as majority whip, and Allan Sayre (D-Dover) as assistant majority whip. Rep. Lou Blessing (R-Cincinnati) will serve as assistant minority leader, Rep. John Adams (R-Sidney) as minority whip, and Rep. Kris Jordan (R-Powell) as assistant minority whip. The changes in the Senate were not nearly as dramatic, as Republicans remain in solid control and six of the seven new members are experienced lawmakers. Lawmakers will quickly settle into their roles as the G.A. prepares to begin committee hearings January 28. For more information, visit our [Legislative Action Center](#). ([Back to top](#)).

February education class will feature popular convention speaker – The upcoming regional education program “**Creating Census Success Through Customer Service**” will feature popular convention speaker Linda Saunders of Censusesolutions. A licensed nursing home administrator, Ms. Saunders received great reviews at our October convention. “Creating Census Success Through Customer Service” will focus on the principles of customer service within the health care industry and teach you how to use these principles to improve your facility’s census. This new course will be held in Columbus on **Thursday, February 19** from 1 to 4 p.m. It will offer three (3) BENHA CEUs. Academy members may attend this program for \$59 and non-members may attend for \$89. Three employees from the same member facility may attend at the discounted rate of \$139. Information concerning this course has been faxed. You can also register online at <http://www.oanh.org/educationalofferings.shtml>. ([Back to top](#)).

Growth in national health spending slows – According to a report by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), health spending in the United States grew 6.1 percent in 2007, to \$2.2 trillion or \$7,421 per person. This was 0.6 of a percentage point lower than 2006 growth and the slowest rate of growth since 1998. Health care spending grew 1.3 percent faster than the economy in 2007. The report noted that the slower growth in 2007 was attributed mostly to slower growth in both retail prescription drug spending and Medicare spending associated with administering

Medicare benefits. Even as health care spending growth slowed, the health spending share of the nation's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) continued to climb, reaching 16.2 percent in 2007, up by 0.2 percentage points from 2006. To view the CMS press release in its entirety, [click here](#). ([Back to top](#)).

Update from CMS – The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has issued the following information of interest to long-term care providers:

- **Survey & Certification Memo**

[09-19: Advance Copy – Hospice Program Interpretive Guidance Version 1.1 \(1/2/09\)](#)

S&C Memo 09-19 released an advance copy of the Hospice Interpretive Guidance. This Interpretive Guidance will also be published in an updated Appendix M of the State Operations Manual (SOM). View the memo and the [SOM Appendix M Advance Copy](#).

- **Medicare billing information for rural providers, suppliers and physicians**

The publication titled *Medicare Billing Information for Rural Providers, Suppliers, and Physicians* (revised October 2008), which consists of charts that provide Medicare billing information for Rural Health Clinics, Federally Qualified Health Centers, Skilled Nursing Facilities, Home Health Agencies, Critical Access Hospitals, and Swing Beds, is now available in print format from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Medicare Learning Network. To place your order, visit http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/01_Overview.asp, scroll down to “Related Links Inside CMS” and select “MLN Product Ordering Page.”

- **Five Star Quality Rating System information**

Academy members can obtain the latest information on CMS' Five Star Quality Rating System on the Academy website by [clicking here](#).

- **Review of Negative Pressure Wound Therapy (NPWT) devices**

CMS has partnered with the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) to commission a review of Negative Pressure Wound Therapy (NPWT) devices. The purpose of this review is to provide information to CMS for consideration in Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) coding decisions. Section 154(c) (3) of the Medicare Improvements for Patient and Providers Act of 2008 (MIPPA) calls for the Secretary of Health and Human Services to perform an evaluation of the HCPCS codes for NPWT devices. This review will facilitate CMS' evaluation of HCPCS coding for NPWT by providing CMS with relevant studies and information for use in consideration of coding changes, as required by the MIPPA legislation. CMS will use this review in its assessment of whether existing HCPCS codes adequately represent the technology and comparative benefits of NPWT devices. The solicitation for studies and evidence was made available to industry stakeholders on December 30, 2008, and requested stakeholders provide this information to AHRQ by February 6, 2009. Stakeholders who would like to provide information about studies or other compelling evidence related to comparative benefits and outcomes of NPWT devices should refer to <http://www.ahrq.gov/clinic/ta/npwtrequest.htm>. For the full HCPCS webpage see <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/medhcpcsgeninfo/> on the CMS website. ([Back to top](#)).

CHAMPS: your resource for product selection and competitive pricing – A full range of regional and national supplier relationships enables CHAMPS Group Purchasing Services to provide Academy members with a product selection unmatched in the industry. Their national partner, Premier, Inc., is the largest healthcare GPO in the country, with over \$31 billion in volume and over 1,400 contracts. Premier's distribution partnership with U.S. Foodservice means reliable, on-time deliveries at discounted prices. **If your facility has not yet taken a look at the most competitive foodservice program in the industry, now is the time.** By aggregating all of the volume from their members' foodservice purchases, Premier is able to negotiate breakthrough pricing that cannot be achieved by any other means. With more than 160 contracts representing 22,000 products from major manufacturers, CHAMPS/Premier Foodservice Program, an [Academy Premier Partner](#), offers the full range of quality and variety of brands. Contact Bob Stein, Director, at 216/255-3688 or email him at bob.stein@chanet.org for a free apples-to-apples comparison of your food program. Visit <http://www.CHAMPSGPO.com> to learn more. ([Back to top](#)).

QIS training is coming! – The QIS (Quality Indicator Survey) is here to stay and it will impact your facility. Let the Academy help your facility be successful with this new format by attending “**Basic QIS**.” This course will be taught by a former state surveyor and will give you the information you need to make your staff confident when it comes to the QIS. Mark your calendar now for this important class! Dates and locations are:

- March 24—Cleveland
- March 25—Columbus
- March 26—Cincinnati

Watch your mailbox and fax for more information concerning this course. Contact [Dawn Kennedy](#) for questions. ([Back to top](#)).

Dates announced for Workers' Comp spring seminars – The Academy and CompManagement, Inc., a Sedgwick CMS Company, will once again partner to offer BENHA credits for the upcoming Workers' Comp spring seminars. Dates and locations of these seminars are:

- 4/20/09—Akron
- 4/21/09—Canton
- 4/22/09—Cleveland East (Beachwood)
- 4/23/09—Cleveland West
- 4/24/09—Toledo
- 4/27/09—Dayton
- 4/28/09—Cincinnati
- 4/29/09—Columbus East
- 05/1/09—Columbus West

More information concerning these seminars will be available soon. ([Back to top](#)).

Secure your 2009 booth NOW! – Many booths have already been reserved for the 2009 OANH Trade Show. To ensure placement in the booth of your choice, reserve yours today. The 2009 OANH Convention & Trade Show will be held Oct. 21-23, 2009 (Wednesday - Friday) at the Hilton Columbus at Easton. Trade show hours will be very similar to the 2008 show.

Booth prices are as follows:

- Regular Booth Pricing
Early Bird Booth Prices (Through June 30, 2009)
OANH Member: \$875
Non-Member: \$975

Regular Booth Prices (After June 30, 2009)
OANH Member: \$975
Non-Member: \$1,075
- Premium Booth Pricing
Early Bird (Through June 30, 2009): \$1,075
Regular (After June 30, 2009): \$1,275

Contracts for 2009 are available via the [OANH website](#), or you can contact [Dawn Kennedy](#) to reserve your booth. ([Back to top](#)).

PAC Golf Outing set for May 18 – Mark your calendars now for the sixth Annual OANH PAC Golf Outing! This year the outing will take place on Monday, May 18. Academy members will enjoy the private greens at The Medallion Club in Westerville. Registration and lunch will begin at 11:30 a.m. with a shotgun start at 1 p.m. After a challenging game of golf, attendees will stay at the course for food, drinks and prizes at "19th Hole." Prices are \$250 per golfer or \$950 per foursome. Registration brochures will be mailed soon. For more information contact [Dawn Kennedy](#). ([Back to top](#)).

Call for presentations for OPC3 Conference due Jan. 30 – [Call for presentations](#) for the Ohio Person Centered Care Coalition's 4th annual conference are due January 30, 2009. The conference is scheduled for June 2, 2009 at the Aladdin Shrine Center in Columbus. Save the date post cards will be mailed in February--breakout sessions, registration, speaker and blocked hotel rates are still being determined. The next teleconference will be held January 20, 2009. For more information, please contact [Christina O'Neal](#). ([Back to top](#)).