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Economic stimulus bill preserves Medicaid funding, cuts other state aid –

Congressional House and Senate leaders reached agreement on a compromise economic stimulus bill on Wednesday. Both the House and Senate are expected to vote on the measure by the end of this week. President Obama anticipates signing the legislation by President's Day. While the compromise significantly cuts state aid, it retains close to the \$88 billion in additional Medicaid funding to the states found in the House version. How these funds are to be distributed to the states is not known at this time. Because state-specific details of the compromise were still unavailable at time of publication ([click here for broad details](#)), it is difficult to determine the exact impact it will have on Ohio's budget. It is unlikely skilled nursing facilities will see any further cuts in the budget due to the economic stimulus bill. As more details emerge, the Academy will continue to update members. For more information on the budget, please contact [Victoria Gresh](#) or [Chris Murray](#). ([Back to top](#)).

Only 6 days left to improve your facility's census – Only 6 days remain to improve the census at your facility by registering for **“Creating Census Success Through Customer Service.”** If you haven't registered, do so TODAY so you can learn how to provide better customer service and how to use customer service 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. “Creating Census Success Through Customer Service” will feature popular convention speaker Linda Saunders of Censusolutions. A licensed nursing home administrator, Ms. Saunders received great reviews at The Academy's annual convention. Information concerning this course has been faxed. You can also register online at <http://www.oanh.org/educationalofferings.shtml>. For more information, contact [Dawn Kennedy](#). ([Back to top](#)).

QIS—it does exist! – The QIS (Quality Indicator Survey) does exist and if your facility hasn't experienced one yet, it will soon. The QIS is different from previous state surveys and facilities need to be prepared! Plan to attend **“Basic QIS”** to learn how your facility can succeed in this new environment. 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. “Basic QIS” will be held in Columbus, Cleveland and Cincinnati during the month of March. The class will be from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. and will include lunch. American Medical Equipment is generously sponsoring these classes and is offering attendees the option of attending “Negative Pressure Wound Therapy” for an additional hour

of CEU from 4 to 5 p.m. "Basic QIS" has been approved for seven (7) hours of CEU from BENHA and "Negative Pressure Wound Therapy" has been approved for one (1) hour of CEU. Attendance at "Negative Pressure Wound Therapy" is optional, but only those attendees who stay will be given the additional one hour of CEU. Academy members may attend these programs for \$149 and non-members may attend for \$199. A member facility may send three employees for the discounted price of \$359, a savings of \$88!

- **Cleveland – Tuesday, March 24**
Holiday Inn Independence
6001 Rockside Road
Independence, Ohio 44131
- **Columbus – Wednesday, March 25**
Confluence Park Restaurant
679 W. Spring Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215
- **Cincinnati – Tuesday, March 31**
Great Wolf Lodge
501 Great Wolf Dr
Mason, OH 45040

Watch your mailbox and fax for more information or you can register online at <http://www.oanh.org/educationalofferings.shtml>. For questions, contact [Dawn Kennedy](#). ([Back to top](#)).

Salmonella outbreak alert – The Ohio Department of Health (ODA) has posted a bulletin titled "Peanut Salmonella Outbreak Alert--Updated FDA Recall List of Peanut Butter & Other Peanut Containing Products." The alert is being posted to alert health care providers of additional peanut butter and other peanut containing products that are being added to the FDA recall list on a continual basis. Click on the following link to the FDA for more information:

<http://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/peanutbutterrecall/index.cfm>. ([Back to top](#)).

MedCorp: meeting the needs of more and more communities – As MedCorp Mobile Medical Services continues to expand its growth throughout Ohio, the company maintains its diversified services and state of the art equipment to provide 24 hour, 7-day a week coverage of emergency and non-emergency requests. MedCorp, an [Academy Premier Partner](#), offers premium equipment to provide critical care transports for cardiac, ventilator and neonatal patients. In addition, the equipment in the Advance Life Support vehicles (ALS) is continuously updated, including EKG monitors with built in pulse oximeters, pharmaceuticals, IV pumps and automatic ventilators. MedCorp also has a fleet of ambulettes for non-emergency wheelchair transportation of wheelchair bound and special needs children. To find out how you can benefit from MedCorp's services, contact Richard Bage at 419/727-7000. ([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**

[09-23: Clarification of Policies and Procedures for the Certification of Entities with One Certificate for Multiple Sites Under the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments \(CLIA\) \(2/6/09\)](#)

This memorandum further defines and clarifies CMS' existing policies for the certification of laboratories performing limited public health testing. It also clarifies the policies and procedures for the certification of entities with multiple sites, specifically for home health agencies (HHAs) and hospices.

- **F309 Interpretive Guidance Implementation**

There has been some confusion as to the implementation date for the F309 guidance that was released in S&C memo 09-22. The correct date is March 31, 2009.

- **Next SNF Open Door Forum**

The next Skilled Nursing Facilities/Long Term Care Open Door Forum is scheduled for Thursday, March 5, 2009 at 2 p.m. Conference leaders will be Sheila Lambowitz and Natalie Highsmith. To participate by phone, dial 800/837-1935; conference ID 70015549.

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Free promotion available at the OANH convention – Are you looking for exposure at the largest annual gathering of Academy members? You can get it for FREE by speaking at the 2009 OANH Annual Convention & Trade Show, slated for October 21-23, 2009. The Academy is looking for some great professionals who want to share their LTC knowledge with others, receive recognition

from their peers and gain exposure for their company. OANH is now accepting applications for presenters, so submit yours TODAY. This application can be completed and submitted via the Academy's website or printed and faxed. Go to <http://www.oanh.org/2007.shtml> to view and submit the application. If you have any questions about the application or being a presenter please contact [Dawn Kennedy](#). ([Back to top](#)).

Registration is open for 2009 Safety Congress – Registration is now available for the 2009 Ohio Safety Congress & Expo. The 79th Safety Congress is set for Tuesday – Thursday, March 31 through April 2 and will be held at the Columbus Convention Center. This annual conference is one of the largest gatherings in the United States singularly dedicated to this cause. The free event is designed to provide a flexible yet customized, industry-focused learning approach to promote safety in the workplace. This year's congress will feature more than 150 educational sessions and an exciting Expo Marketplace. For more information or to register, visit www.ohiobwc.com. ([Back to top](#)).

CDC releases issue brief on mental health and aging – The Healthy Aging Program at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the National Association of Chronic Disease Directors (NACDD) released the first of two issue briefs focused on the mental health of older adults in the United States. The brief, titled "The State of Mental Health and Aging in America," reviews existing data and lays the foundation for understanding key issues related to mental health in adults over 50. The full report can be found at http://www.cdc.gov/aging/pdf/mental_health.pdf. ([Back to top](#)).

Workers' comp group rating deadline fast approaching – The deadline for filing groups with the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation is **February 27, 2009**. If you have received a quote through the Academy's group rating program and have not responded, you must complete and submit the appropriate forms to CompManagement Inc. A Sedgwick CMS Company to be included in the 2009 workers' compensation group plan. If you are reviewing savings quotes from other group administrators, please make sure that you are comparing apples to apples. CompManagement takes great pride in the accuracy and consistency of their savings forecast, while others within the industry tend to promote inflated savings figures in an effort to secure additional business. Keep in mind that not all group administrators offer the same level of service. Examine other quotes thoroughly to ensure that you are comparing similar discounts and service offerings. For the July 1, 2008 rate year, CompManagement was once again the largest group administrator and was able to offer the largest and most stable programs available in the state of Ohio. Enrollment only occurs once a year, so please make sure to send back the documents needed to ensure your continued participation in our program. Should you have any questions regarding group rating or the savings quote you received, please contact CompManagement, Inc. at 800/825-6755, option 3 or email [Genny Hart](#). ([Back to top](#)).