



Helping innovative long-term care professionals provide quality health care to Ohioans.

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Budget bill introduced, no surprises – Substitute House Bill 1, the biennial operating budget bill, was released earlier this week. As expected, the bill contains language to increase the SNF franchise permit fee (bed tax) to \$11.00 and the ICF/MR bed tax to \$14.25. Furthermore, the bill increases SNF licensure fees by \$50 each FY for every part of 50 beds licensed. It would also pay SNFs the price while ICF/MRs could see up to a seven percent increase in rate, subject to a mean rate cut to make the average weighted rate \$277.25, a 2.1% increase from the FY2009 average rate. The bill would allow the movement of beds across county lines based upon bed need and occupancy levels. Finally, it expands the LTC Consultation Program to include on-going need and eligibility assessments for current residents and to monitor “the quality and cultural competence of the services and supports.” If you would like to discuss the current budget proposal with fellow Academy members, log-on to our “**Budget Blog**” at <http://blog.oanh.org/>. For more information on the budget, please contact [Victoria Gresh](#) or [Chris Murray](#). ([Back to top](#)).

Membership dues deadline Monday, March 2 – The Academy has mailed 2009 membership dues invoices to all full (facility) and associate members. **The deadline for payment of membership dues is Monday, March 2.** Members are asked to complete the membership update form if there have been any recent changes to the contact information. Please note there is no dues increase for 2009. Questions about billing or payment should be directed to [Christina O’Neal](#). ([Back to top](#)).

Ready or not, QIS is coming! – Is your facility ready for a QIS (Quality Indicator Survey)? Additional surveyors are being trained in this new format and facilities are being surveyed using the QIS. This is happening to facilities across the state and yours could be next! The QIS is a reality and, if your facility hasn’t experienced one yet, it will soon. 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](#)).

Learn how YOUR facility can avoid being blamed by a hospital – Plan to attend “**Managing Risk in the LTC Environment in Light of Medicare Hospital Regulatory Changes**” to learn how to protect your facility from hospital blame. As of October 1, 2008 CMS initiated changes in the Medicare reimbursement system for conditions which they label as “hospital acquired conditions due to complications associated with poor nursing care that should never happen in an acute care setting.” If one of these conditions occurs, the hospital will not receive reimbursement for any treatment rendered without significant physician documentation determining the condition occurred outside of the hospital. How does this affect facilities? Several of the conditions in question such as pressure sores, falls with trauma, and infections related to catheters occur frequently in the LTC environment. This new regulation could lead to blaming between the hospital and LTC facility. “**Managing Risk in the LTC in Light of Medicare Hospital Regulatory Changes**” will teach you how to deal with this new regulation and develop an action plan to turn the negatives of the regulations into positives. Dates and locations are:

Dates and Locations:

- **Cleveland – Tuesday, April 21**
Holiday Inn Independence
6001 Rockside Road
Independence, Ohio 44131
- **Columbus – Tuesday, April 28**
Confluence Park Restaurant
679 W. Spring Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215
- **Cincinnati – Thursday, April 30**
Kings Island Resort
5691 Kings Island Dr.
Mason, Ohio 45040

“Managing Risk in the LTC in Light of Medicare Hospital Regulatory Changes” will be held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and has been approved for four (4) hours of CEU. Academy members may attend this program for \$89 and non-members may attend for \$129. A member facility may send three employees for the discounted price of \$199, a savings of \$68! Watch your fax for more information or you can register online at <http://www.oanh.org/educationalofferings.shtml>. For questions, contact [Dawn Kennedy](#). ([Back to top](#)).

Accu Medical provides cost-effective waste disposal – Accu Medical Waste Service, Inc. is a full service medical waste management company headquartered in Marietta that provides the legal transportation and disposal of regulated medical waste. An [Academy Premier Partner](#), Accu Medical provides support and assistance in the implementation of cost effective medical waste management programs for the health care profession. The company utilizes the latest technology and the most environmentally friendly methods of disposal of all medical waste. Most waste is treated by autoclaving, a non-polluting method that complies with all federal and state requirements. Accu Medical's services include:

- medical waste transportation and disposal
- skilled, trained and professional personnel

- efficient, well-maintained equipment
- prompt, dependable pick-up service
- documentation of statutory requirements and guidelines

Take advantage of Accu Medical's special pricing for Academy members by emailing [Doug Parks](mailto:Doug.Parks@accumedical.com), or contact him via phone at 740/373-1168. Visit Accu Medical at www.accumedicalservices.com. ([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:

- **Five-Star Quality Rating System**

The Five Star Preview Reports are currently available. Please visit your Quality Improvement Evaluation System (QIES) mailbox (available through your electronic connection to the State servers for submission of Minimum Data Set (MDS) data) to review your results. To access these reports, select the Certification and Survey Provider Enhanced Reports (CASPER) Reporting link located at the bottom of the Login page. Once in the CASPER Reporting system, click on the 'Folders' button and access the Five Star Report in your 'st LTC facid' folder, where 'st' is the two-digit postal code of the state in which your facility is located and 'facid' is the state assigned facility identifier of your facility. A new version of the Five-Star Quality Rating Technical Users' Guide and an accompanying Summary of Updates to the Technical Users' Guide document are accessible on the Five-Star Quality Rating System Web page at http://www.cms.hhs.gov/CertificationandCompliance/13_FSQRS.asp. The Five-Star Quality Rating System helpline is available now to answer your questions. The number is 1-800-839-9290 and is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. through March 5, 2009.

- **DMEPOS interim final rule delay**

CMS has delayed the effective date for the Interim Final Rule with Comment Period that implements certain provisions of the Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act of 2008 (MIPPA) for the Round 1 Rebid of the Medicare Durable Medical Equipment, Prosthetics, Orthotics and Supplies (DMEPOS) Competitive Acquisition Program. The effective date was originally February 17, 2009 and is now April 18, 2009. The original comment period on the Interim Final Rule remains unchanged. The public has until March 17, 2009, to submit comments on the substantive policy issues discussed in the rule. Visit the CMS website at www.cms.hhs.gov/CompetitiveAcqforDMEPOS/ to view additional information.

- **Medicare Fraud & Abuse Fact Sheet**

Revised January 2009, the Medicare Fraud & Abuse Fact Sheet is now available at, http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/Fraud_and_Abuse.pdf, on the Medicare Learning Network (MLN). The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) works with other government agencies and law enforcement organizations to protect the Medicare program from fraud and abuse. Together with CMS, providers can help identify and prevent fraud and abuse; the first step for providers to protect themselves is to understand the legal definitions and be able to identify fraudulent and abusive practices. This fact sheet provides information on many available resources to help you understand what to do if you suspect or become aware of incidents of potential Medicare fraud or abuse. ([Back to top](#)).

Notes from the Monthly Provider meeting – Representatives from the long-term care trade associations met with state officials and other interested parties this week to discuss survey and certification issues. The following are highlights from the meeting:

- ODH's provided a list of the Top Ten Deficiencies in 2008. They are, in order:
 - K144: Generator issues (346)
 - K62: Sprinkler systems maintained, inspected and tested (311)
 - K29: Hazardous areas (310)
 - K18: Doors protecting corridor openings (288)
 - K38: Exits accessible (261)
 - K147: Electrical wiring & equipment (242)
 - K50: Fire drills (238)
 - K25: Smoke barriers (206)
 - K56: Sprinkler System (180)
 - K52: Fire alarm installation, testing, maintenance (169)
- Representatives from ODH will meet with CMS representatives next week to clarify various survey issues.
- A concern was raised about the time being taken to complete IDRs. ODH explained while they were previously behind, they are now current.
- Clarification was given regarding F334. Several facilities have reported surveyors asking for

signed consent forms for flu and Pneumovax immunizations. While it is suggested facilities have signed consent forms, this is not a requirement and residents are permitted to refuse.

- The associations expressed interest in discussing possible modifications of the complaint survey process, due to the current state budget constraints. ODH explained that the majority of the complaint process is dictated by CMS, and that 28-32% of investigated complaints are substantiated.
- A question was raised regarding a 24-hour caregiver privately hired by a RCF resident's family doing the resident's AccuCheck and insulin. ODH explained giving insulin could be considered skilled care; this would also affect the AccuCheck if it was physician ordered.
- Concerns were raised about the time RCF facilities are waiting for surveys. ODH explained that approximately 50 facilities are beyond the 15-month survey window, and they now have a plan to catch up with these facilities and stay on track with other facilities. The current average time between SNF surveys is 13.04 months.

For more information please contact [Dawn Kennedy](#). ([Back to top](#)).

Are you an LTC expert? – If you are, the Academy wants you! We are seeking 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 taking applications for presenters at the 2009 Annual Convention & Trade Show, slated for October 21-23, 2009. 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](#)).

Hit the driving range! PAC golf outing coming soon – Get ready 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](#)).

Costs for nursing homes, assisted living vary widely by region, report finds – Geography plays an important role in the cost of nursing home and other long-term care services, according to a recently released report. Nationally, the average nursing home cost was \$210 per day for a private room in the markets surveyed. But costs vary greatly depending on where you live. If you reside in a facility in Homer, AK, you could be paying up to \$538 per day in nursing home costs, according to the report. But a nursing home in Lafayette, LA, costs a fraction of that-\$118 per day. Meanwhile Hawaii is the most expensive on average for care in an assisted living facility at \$4,406 a month-more than twice what assisted living residents in North Dakota pay. Many of the nation's Northeastern states have assisted living costs that top \$4,000 per month. The survey, which was conducted by the Long Term Care Group on behalf of Northwestern Mutual, sampled more than 7,000 long-term care facilities nationwide. For more information on the report, or the companies that commissioned it, visit www.nmfn.com.
(Source: McKnight's Long-Term Care News & Assisted Living, 2/26/09, www.mcknights.com)
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