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"Early Bird" MDS coding discount ends Tuesday! – Save your facility money by registering for the upcoming **"Essentials of MDS 3.0 Coding"** on or before Tuesday, April 6, the last day to receive the "Early Bird" discount. "Essentials of MDS 3.0 Coding" will help your facility prepare for the October 1 implementation of MDS 3.0. The Academy and AOPHA have partnered to offer this important course. Join ODH MDS/NATCEP Unit Supervisor and RAI Coordinator Patsy Strouse, RN for this timely program. Ms. Strouse was one of only two coordinators in the country to review and comment on the new MDS 3.0 Manual from the initial to final version. Those registering on or before April 6 will be mailed the new MDS Manual for review prior to the program (subject to availability). By receiving the manual early, you can come to the program prepared and ready to ask questions.

Dates and locations:

- **Tuesday, April 20**
Kings Island Resort & Conference Center
5691 Kings Island Dr.
Mason, Ohio 45040
- **Thursday, April 22**
Catering By Design
6465 Busch Blvd.
Columbus, OH 43229
- **Wednesday, April 28**
Crowne Plaza (Formerly Skyline Hotel)
5300 Rockside Rd.
Independence, OH 44131
- **Thursday, May 20**
Catering by Design
6465 Busch Blvd.
Columbus, OH 43229

Cost:

Early Bird Rate (Register on or before April 6)

\$159 OANH/AOPHA Members; \$209 Non-Members
3 or more members from same campus/facility \$139 each

Regular Rate

\$179 OANH/AOPHA Members; \$209 Non-Members
3 or more members from same campus/facility \$143 each

Registration for this course begins at 8:30 a.m. The program is from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Six (6) CEUs have been approved for LNHAs, RNs, LPNs; pending for LSWs; RD/LDs, activity professionals and CDMs eligible for comparable credit. Breaks, lunch and the manual are included in the program cost. AOPHA is handling all registrations for this program and information has been mailed and faxed. You can also register [online](#). For questions contact [Dawn Kennedy](#). ([Back to top](#)).

Last chance to improve YOUR facility's census – If you want to improve YOUR facility's census, but haven't signed up for "Extreme Census Building," register today as the class starts next week! The easiest way to affect the bottom line at YOUR facility is to improve your census. Attend "**Extreme Census Building**" to examine your current census and learn how it can be improved. This class will teach you which situations can be used to advance the facility's census and how to maximize opportunities and convert them to sales situations. This "Lunch & Learn" regional program will be on Thursday, April 8 in Columbus from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Academy members may attend for \$69 and non-members may attend for \$89. "Extreme Census Building" will offer three (3) BENHA CEUs. Information about this course has been faxed and emailed, you can also register [online](#). For questions, contact [Dawn Kennedy](#). ([Back to top](#)).

Health Reform Analysis: RUG-IV and MDS 3.0 – As reported last week by the Academy, the health reform legislation included language delaying the implementation of RUG-IV until October 1, 2011 (Sec 10325 of The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act). However, the language directed CMS, beginning on October 1, 2010, "to implement the change specific to therapy furnished on a concurrent basis that is a component of RUG-IV and changes to the lookback period to ensure that only those services furnished after admission to a skilled nursing facility are used as factors in determining a case mix classification under the skilled nursing facility prospective payment system." The language also notes that delaying the RUG-IV implementation does not impact the implementation of MDS 3.0 this year: "Nothing in this section shall be interpreted as delaying the implementation of Version 3.0 of the Minimum Data Sets (MDS 3.0) beyond the planned implementation date of October 1, 2010." The impact of using MDS 3.0 with RUG-III is still not certain; CMS only looked at MDS 3.0 using RUG-IV. It is possible that Congress may pass legislation to return the RUG-IV implementation back to the original date; however, it is difficult to tell the plausibility of that occurring at this time. The Academy will provide you with updated information as it becomes available. For more information, contact [Chris Murray](#). ([Back to top](#)).

ODJFS runs mass adjustment, prepared to move forward with system fixes – The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) announced to interested parties last week that they will run the mass adjustment for claims primarily in the areas of Medicaid inpatient and Medicare Part A co-ins that are over one year old and should have paid, but the system would not allow it forcing providers to continually submit the claims every six months. The adjustment is expected to result in \$5.5 million of claims. The mass adjustment was just one of many system issues that the long-term care associations jointly brought before the state in an initiative spearheaded by Cindy Dunne of [ECS Billing & Consulting, Inc.](#) ODJFS also said they were close to completing the fixes for the audit reports to increase their accuracy. Once completed, ODJFS will send updated CPAO/Medicaid audit reports to the auditors for cases still pending. The auditors will contact the providers and use the new information to compare it to the last report and remove those claims corrected by the fix. This should decrease provider work by decreasing the number of claims the provider is required to provide documentation for. ODJFS also said that many of the other system issues raised by the associations would be corrected by the time MITS is implemented in December. For more information, contact [Chris Murray](#). ([Back to top](#)).

Welcome, Cooperative Health Partners! Our newest Premier Partner – Cooperative Health Partners (CHP) is a member-owned statewide Medical Transportation Network of twenty of Ohio's premier transportation companies with local community roots. CHP was established in 1997, offering quality, cost-effective, transportation through one phone number and one bill. Each member company is strategically positioned around the state to provide coverage to all 88 Ohio counties and contiguous counties in Kentucky and Indiana. Each owner guarantees the quality of service being provided and is personally available to address any questions or concerns. ONE PHONE CALL, ONE CONTACT, ONE BILL! Your contact is Tiffany Wermtter at 614/255-0312. Visit Cooperative Health Partners online at <http://www.cooperativehealth.net/home.htm>. ([Back to top](#)).

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

- **The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA)**

On March 23, 2010, President Obama signed into law the *Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act* (PPACA). The law's Medicare fee-for-service provisions have varying effective dates and CMS' first priority is to address provisions with the earliest effective dates.

- **Extension of Therapy Cap Exceptions Process**

The PPACA extends the exceptions process for outpatient therapy caps (see Section 3103). Outpatient therapy service providers may continue to submit claims with the KX modifier, when an exception is appropriate, for services furnished on or after January 1, 2010, through December 31, 2010. The therapy caps are determined on a calendar year basis, so all patients began a new cap year on January 1, 2010. For physical therapy and speech language pathology services combined, the limit on incurred expenses is \$1,860. For occupational therapy services, the limit is \$1,860. Deductible and coinsurance amounts applied to therapy services count toward the amount accrued before a cap is reached.

Please be on the alert for more information pertaining to the *Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act*.

- **New and Revised Articles Posted to MLN Matters**

- CMS has released a Special Edition **MLN Matters** article that provides guidance to suppliers on the Medicare quality standards for beneficiary protection and safeguard requirements related to respiratory therapy equipment, PMDs, and other related durable medical equipment. View **SE1009**, "[Medicare Quality Standards and Beneficiary Protections for Respiratory Equipment, Power Mobility Devices, and Other Related Durable Medical Equipment.](#)"
 - If you missed any of the MLN Matters Articles notices over the previous 12 months, [click here](#) to view the archive.

- **Acumen's Study on the Medicare Wage Index: Final Report Part II**

In the Fiscal Year (FY) 2010 hospital inpatient prospective payment system final rule (74 FR 43824), CMS discussed that the focus of Acumen's second final report on the wage index would be on the methodology of wage index construction and would cover issues related to the definition of wage areas and methods of adjusting for differences among neighboring wage areas. [Acumen's Final Report Part II is now available.](#)

- **CMS Data Information Availability**

- [Health Care Financing Review: Medicaid & Medicare Statistical Supplement, 2009 and earlier editions.](#)
 - [Data Compendium; 2009 and earlier editions.](#)
 - CMS has posted information on beneficiary use of Medicare Preventive benefits at the national, state and county level on the CMS website. Information available is from claims data and self-reported data. [Access the preventive interactive database.](#)

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Have you submitted your convention presentation? – Don't miss your opportunity to present to hundreds of attendees at the Academy's Annual Convention. Presenting is a great way to share your knowledge with others in the long-term care industry, receive recognition from your peers and gain exposure for your company. The 2010 convention will be held Wednesday - Friday, October 20-22 at the Hilton Columbus at Easton. Application can be completed and submitted via the Academy's [website](#) or printed and faxed. If you have any questions about the application or being a presenter please contact [Dawn Kennedy](#). [\(Back to top\).](#)

ODH releases bed need information for CON; discusses LTACH average day maximum – The Ohio Department of Health (ODH) recently released the results of the bed need formula on their [website](#). Details include information on inter-county bed transfers; a map showing which counties can donate beds and those that can receive beds; a spreadsheet with the data used to determine bed need; and a spreadsheet dividing the counties into those that need beds, can donate beds, and no beds can be moved in or out of. Hamilton and Cuyahoga counties are the most "over bedded" according to the formula, while Franklin, Delaware and Montgomery counties show the greatest need. ODH will accept certificate of need (CON) applications for inter-county transfers of long-term beds from July 1, 2010 to July 30, 2010. [Howard, Wershbale & Co.](#) is expecting a significant amount of CON application activity to occur over the next few months along with an increase in objections to filed applications. ODH also discussed extending the maximum average length of stay for long term acute care hospitals (LTACH) with interested parties this week. LTACH representatives want to remove the cap while skilled nursing facility (SNF) representatives prefer a cap to avoid LTACHs from treating the same consumers as a high acuity SNF. There was agreement

to extend the cap from 30 days to 45 days. For more information on CON or LTACH, please contact [Chris Murray](#). ([Back to top](#)).

Administrators and DONs: be recognized by your peers – Do you want to add an achievement to your resume that will gain you recognition among your peers? Consider submitting an article for *The Academy Advocate* or submitting an answer to the "Member Viewpoint" question! This is a great way for long-term care professionals to be recognized among colleagues. Not only will you gain "face time" with your headshot published in the magazine, but you will also share your unique ideas and practices with other long-term care professionals. If interested in submitting an article, sign the [article release form](#) and email it to [Christina O'Neal](#). The "Member Viewpoint" question for this issue is: ***"How do you keep your facility environmentally friendly and promote the importance of green consciousness and behavior?"*** Answers (250 words or less) must be emailed to [Christina O'Neal](#) and if your answer is published you will receive one free education course for 2010. All articles and answers are due no later than April 30, 2010. ([Back to top](#)).

Ads in *The 2010 Membership Directory* can help your business – In this tough economy, advertising becomes very important as you look to maintain and possibly grow your business. With your ad in *The 2010 Membership Directory* potential customers who use this professional resource will know who you are, what you do, and how you serve the long-term care profession. Be creative and highlight your services and show that your company supports the Academy! [Click here](#) to view ad measurements and prices. For questions or more information, please email [Christina O'Neal](#) at the Academy. **All ads are due no later than May 21, 2010.** Burgie MediaFusion will publish the directory. ([Back to top](#)).

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