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“That pressure sore happened at the SNF!” – Are you ready for when the hospital blames your facility for a condition that occurred at the hospital? 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. 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. “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:

- **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) CUEs. 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](#)).

PAC Golf Outing will offer much more than great golf – The sixth annual Academy Political Action Committee (PAC) Golf Outing will offer attendees much more than the chance to play at one of the nicest private clubs in central Ohio. It will also present great networking opportunities and the chance to show your support for the OANH PAC. The PAC gives the Academy a strong voice in legislative matters. The outing will take place on Monday, May 18 at the private Medallion Club in Westerville, Ohio. 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 the “19th Hole” reception. Prices are \$250 per golfer or \$950 per foursome. Registration brochures have been mailed and you can also view the brochure at www.oanh.org. For more information and to discuss sponsorship opportunities, contact [Dawn Kennedy](#). ([Back to top](#)).

CMS announces pay for performance demo for SNFs – Medicare officials recently announced a new, four-state demonstration to determine if cash incentives will improve the quality of care and efficiency of operations in nursing homes. Nursing homes in Arizona, Mississippi, New York and Wisconsin will be asked to participate. “Medicare is always interested in testing new ways to improve the quality of care in nursing homes,” said Charlene Frizzera, acting administrator of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). “We believe this demonstration to provide incentive payments for superior performance will be informative.” Facilities joining the Nursing Home Value-Based Purchasing demonstration will be awarded points for performance on quality measures in four areas: nurse staffing, avoidable hospitalizations, resident outcomes, and the scope and severity of deficiency citations the home has received during inspections. Nursing homes with the highest scores or the greatest improvement in their score will be eligible for a performance payment. Savings generated by improved performance, such as reducing the number of avoidable hospitalizations, will fund state pools from which payments will be made to qualified nursing homes. Nursing homes wishing to be in the demonstration will be randomly assigned to a demonstration group or a comparison group. Medicare officials anticipate that at least 100 nursing facilities in each state will apply to be part of this demonstration. The demonstration is expected to run from July 2009 through June 2012, at which time its effectiveness will be evaluated to inform possible changes to Medicare payment policy. CMS will mail an application kit to each Medicare-certified nursing home in the demonstration states. (Source: CMS) ([Back to top](#)).

Deloitte issues BWC report – The Ohio Bureau of Workers’ Compensation (BWC) should change its group rating program, require collateral from higher-risk employers and establish new limits on moves in and out of the state insurance fund, according to an independent report released Wednesday. [The report](#), issued by Deloitte Consulting LLC, was prepared at the request of the General Assembly, which ordered the review in the wake of scandals that the agency has faced in recent years. The report says establishment of net asset level and reserve funding policies should be among the agency’s highest priorities. Deloitte also said there are substantial opportunities in claim cost controls, and said the agency should prioritize changes to an inequitable group-rating program. BWC said it has already implemented several recommendations, including rate-making changes that have cut base rates by 12%. (Source: Gongwer Ohio Report, Thursday, March 30) ([Back to top](#)).

Maintain financial viability, prepare for the future with Cummins, Krasik & Hohl – Since 1976, the mission of Cummins, Krasik & Hohl (CK&H), an Academy [Premier Partner](#), has been to help clients maintain financial viability in the present while taking a proactive approach to achieve future goals. This requires open communication to reach an understanding of their clients’ needs, thorough research, and sound analysis. CK&H is dedicated to meeting these goals with high standards of excellence and professionalism. Bert P. Cummins, CPA, the Managing Principal and CEO, has an extensive background in all areas of auditing, taxation, financial reporting, and consulting. The firm is built upon the experience, innovation, dedication and expertise that their current and former principals personally bring to each engagement. Mr. Cummins is an active member of the service team, and works closely with the professional staff and with their clients to insure that the work is done as efficiently as possible, creating a stable long-term relationship for their clients. CK&H provides a wide range of services including, but not limited to:

- Medicaid and Medicare Provider Compliance Services
- Medicaid and Medicare Consulting Services
- Accounting Services
- Audits, Reviews and Compilation
- Mergers, Acquisitions and Sales
- Tax Management Services

For more information on the wide array of services provided by CK&H, contact [Bert Cummins](#) or via phone at 614/224-7800 or 800/956-CPAS (2727). Visit them online at www.ckandh.com. ([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 explained that, to date, there have been 71 complaints from consumers that involved resident-to-resident abuse/violence. Fifty-five of these complaints generated a visit.
- A concern was raised about the ability of providers to understand when there is a new or different interpretation of the Life Safety Code. ODH explained they cover these issues through the upcoming Preventative Maintenance Manuals, the top 10 list of citations, and through their website.
- Clarification was given regarding hazardous area rooms in a building with a complete automatic sprinkler system. It was asked if these rooms are required to have a positive latching device on the room door. ODH explained this was required if the door opens into a corridor.
- Concerns were raised about a recent position a surveyor took regarding resident-to-resident altercations. The surveyor stated that all resident-to-resident altercations must be reported. ODH officials explained that this is not the case and while the facility must always do an investigation, the requirement to report is dependent upon the actual incident and the findings of the facility's investigation.
- The outcome of the recent meeting between ODH and CMS Region V offices regarding natural gas generators was discussed. CMS stood firm in their requirement that natural gas generators are required to have a back up fuel source, but added that additional options were being examined due to the high number of natural gas generators in Ohio. More information concerning this issue will hopefully be available soon.
- ODH survey districts have changed and the Columbus district office of will be closing on April 24, 2009. Facilities that were previously served by the Columbus office will now be served by the Dayton or Cambridge office. Any facility affected by this change will be notified via mail.

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

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

- **Survey & Certification Memos**
 - [09-29: Food and Drug Administration \(FDA\) Warning to Nursing Homes Regarding Recalled Food Products Containing Peanuts \(3/27/09\)](#)
The FDA and CDC have received reports of deaths of elderly nursing home residents who had underlying health conditions and had consumed recalled food products containing peanuts contaminated by *Salmonella*. The FDA is issuing a warning to nursing home and other long-term care facility administrators, owners, and food managers to ensure they are aware of the dangers of their residents eating recalled food products, and urging them to check their institutional supply of peanut butter and other products containing peanut ingredients for food items that may be affected by the recent voluntary recalls. The FDA also urges personnel at nursing homes and other long-term care facilities to check often its searchable database of recalled products at <http://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/peanutbutterrecall/index.cfm>. A Listserv notice was recently sent to all nursing homes.
 - [09-30: Survey and Certification Issues Related to North Dakota Flooding \(3/27/09\)](#)
Several States in the Midwest have been seriously impacted during this year's active flooding season. Citizens in North Dakota, South Dakota, and Minnesota are currently facing difficult circumstances as they respond to the flooding. The President has declared a national emergency in specified counties in the State of North Dakota. Charles Johnson, the Acting Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, has also declared a public health emergency in the North Dakota geographic areas covered by the President's declaration. CMS may waive or modify, to the extent necessary, certain requirements, or timetables if providers, acting in good faith to provide needed services, are unable to comply with the requirements as a result of the effects of the disaster.

- **Five-Star Rating**

The Technical Manual for the Five-Star Rating system has been revised slightly. The cut-point tables have been removed from the manual and are now a standalone document so that information about

the cut points can be changed without having to reissue the whole manual. There are a few other changes as well:

- <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/CertificationandCompliance/Downloads/summaryupdatestug.pdf>
(One page summary of updates)
- <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/CertificationandCompliance/Downloads/usersguide.pdf>
(Technical Users Guide revised 3/25/09)
- <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/CertificationandCompliance/Downloads/cutpointstable.pdf>
(Cut-Points Tables revised 3/25/09)

● **Provider Enrollment for FQHCs, ESRDs and RHCs**

CMS released an update to the Medicare Claims Processing Manual: As FQHCs, ESRDs, and RHCs seek to enroll in the Medicare program, they should file their enrollment applications with the legacy FI or MAC that covers the State where they are located. This represents a shift from the legacy-world assignment policy where there existed regional and national FIs for these distinct provider types. Some exceptions to the geographic assignment rule exist. ([Back to top](#)).

Even varsity team members need a place to rest – Attendees at the 2009 sports-themed OANH Annual Convention & Trade Show will all be members of the Academy’s varsity team—but even star athletes need a place to cool down after the big game. Do you have YOUR place to cool down and rest at the convention? Sleeping rooms are going quickly and now is the time to guarantee you have a hotel room for the 2009 OANH Annual Convention & Trade Show. The 2009 convention will be held Wednesday - Friday, October 21-23, 2009 at the Hilton Columbus at Easton. The Academy has negotiated a special discounted rate of \$172 per room/per night. To make a reservation call the Hilton at 614/414-5000 and mention the **group code OAN**. ([Back to top](#)).

Put the spotlight on your company in the new membership directory – With bigger ads and a brand new look and design of the *2009 Membership Directory*, advertisers will gain a marketing edge over companies who do not advertise. Each ad will be highly visible to decision-makers in the long-term care industry, as each directory is mailed to all Academy administrators and owners. To view the revised ad measurements and to reserve your ad, go to <http://www.oanh.org/bus-dev.pdf>. **The new deadline for advertisements is May 1.** Ads received after this date may not be published. Burgie MediaFusion will publish the new directory. ([Back to top](#)).

Are you an innovative administrator or DON? Share your knowledge in *The Academy Advocate* – We know there are many innovative administrators and nurses among our members, and we want you to share your unique knowledge and practices in the upcoming issue of *The Academy Advocate*. Not only will you add to your resume, but you will also be recognized among your colleagues in the long-term care profession. If interested, email [Christina O’Neal](#) at the Academy. **All articles with professional headshots are due no later than June 1, 2009.** All authors are required to sign the [article release form](#) and submit a professional headshot. ([Back to top](#)).