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FRIDAY, APRIL 17, 2009 HEADLINES:

[WANTED: PAC Golf Outing sponsors and golfers](#)

[Last chance to protect YOUR facility from hospital blame](#)

[Congress criticizing diversion of Medicaid stimulus dollars](#)

[Merriman Good Life Foundation launches Daisy Project Campaign](#)

[Anthem offers free teleconference to answer billing concerns](#)

[How does your facility define abuse and neglect?](#)

[Update from CMS](#)

[OSU conducts AL transition survey](#)

[October will be here before you know it—will you have a booth?](#)

[May 1 is the deadline for all Directory ads](#)

WANTED: PAC Golf Outing sponsors and golfers – The Academy needs you to make our upcoming golf outing a success! Participation in the upcoming Academy Political Action Committee (PAC) Golf Outing shows members you support their association, and you can enjoy a beautiful day of golf and networking. Whether your company sends a foursome, sponsors a hole or donates a prize, being a part of this annual member favorite is great way to get recognized by Academy members. **This year 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](#)).

Last chance to protect YOUR facility from hospital blame – Only a few days remain to learn how to protect your facility from hospital blame as “**Managing Risk in the LTC Environment in Light of Medicare Hospital Regulatory Changes**” begins next week in Cleveland. Why should you plan to attend this course? 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:

- **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](#)).

Congress criticizing diversion of Medicaid stimulus dollars – Republican members of the [House Oversight and Government Reform Committee](#) on Tuesday released a draft report criticizing some states' efforts to use Medicaid funding from the federal economic stimulus package to fill budget gaps or avoid tax increases, among other uses, [Politico](#) reports (Frates, *Politico*, 4/14). The draft report names eight states that are considering diverting Medicaid funds to other uses: Florida, Indiana, Kansas, Michigan, Nevada, New York, Virginia and West Virginia. According to the report, "This practice undermines the promise that stimulus funds would be 'targeted,'" adding, "By exploiting a loophole in the stimulus legislation, states are effectively able to use federal funds intended for health care spending for whatever projects they choose and without obligation to adhere to federal transparency and accountability rules attached to stimulus funds." In the report, committee ranking member Darrell Issa (R-Calif.) writes that there is no way to ensure the programs maintain coverage at pre-recession levels, adding that by diverting part of the total \$87 billion slated for Medicaid, state programs could be forced to decrease reimbursement rates to health care providers (Edney, *CongressDaily*, 4/14). Kurt Bardella, a spokesperson for the Republican members of the committee, said such actions constitute "fraud and abuse" and should serve as a warning to lawmakers about similar actions in the future (*Politico*, 4/14). [CMS](#) has indicated that it does not consider diverting Medicaid funds a violation of the stimulus bill (*CongressDaily*, 4/14). An Obama administration official said that Congress intended to grant states flexibility in using the Medicaid funds to make state money available for other uses. The official said, "Across the country, states' budgets are being strained by the economic crisis. Now, Recovery Act dollars are protecting health care coverage for millions of Americans and helping states fund critical operations and create jobs," adding, "That's exactly what the Recovery Act was designed to do" (*Politico*, 4/14). Issa in the report writes that Congress should ensure that regardless of how the money is spent, stimulus Medicaid funds should meet reporting and accountability standards (*CongressDaily*, 4/14). Jenny Rosenberg, a spokeswoman for the Democratic members of the oversight committee, said staff had not yet reviewed the report (*Politico*, 4/14).

(Source: Kaisernetwork.org Daily Health Policy Report, April 15, 2009) ([Back to top](#)).

Merriman Good Life Foundation launches Daisy Project Campaign – Aimed at raising awareness of the general public to the value of pets visiting residents of nursing homes, The Merriman Good Life Foundation has launched a campaign called the Daisy Project. The Daisy Project is seeking to not only raise awareness, but also inform owners and their dogs of the best way for getting plugged into nursing homes. View the [full press release here](#) or get full details by visiting www.TMGLFoundation.org. ([Back to top](#)).

Anthem offers free teleconference to answer billing concerns – Mark your calendar for Monday, April 27 for a free Anthem teleconference that will help your facility handle Anthem billing concerns. This teleconference is slated to begin at 1 p.m. and should last approximately until 2:15 p.m. While the teleconference will not cover specific claim issues, it will cover the Anthem online system, eligibility inquiry, claims inquiry, fee schedule, remittance inquiry, types of Anthem plans and where each are located. For log in information [click here](#). ([Back to top](#)).

How does your facility define abuse and neglect? – How is abuse and neglect defined in YOUR facility? Do you know what requires a report and what doesn't? Learn this and much more at "Definitions of Abuse & Neglect." This new regional education program will be held Thursday, May 14 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Columbus. This course will be taught by former ODH criminal investigator, Robert Reed of the Critical Incident Group and has been approved for four (4) hours of CEU from BENHA. 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](#)).

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—April News**

The Five-Star provider preview reports will be available beginning Thursday, April 16, 2009. Providers can access the report from the Minimum Data Set (MDS) State Welcome pages available at the state servers for submission of MDS data.

1. Provider Preview access information:

- Visit the MDS State Welcome page available on the state servers where you submit 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,
 - i. Click on the 'Folders' button and access the Five Star Report in your 'st LTC facid' folder,
 - ii. Where st is the 2-digit postal code of the state in which your facility is located and
 - iii. Facid is the state assigned facid of your facility.

2. The Five-Star Helpline will be open for providers from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. beginning Thursday, April 16, 2009 through Friday, May 1, 2009 to address any April's data concerns.

3. There will be no Five-Star helpline access for the months of May and June to coincide with the release of each month's preview data. For Five-Star provider preview questions during these months, use the BetterCare@cms.hhs.gov email. The helpline will begin quarterly operation beginning in July.

4. Nursing Home Compare will update with April's Five-Star data on Thursday, April 23, 2009.

• **Medicare announces sites for pilot program to improve quality as patients move across care settings**

CMS announced the 14 communities around the nation that have been chosen for the Agency's care Transitions Project, seeking to eliminate unnecessary hospital readmissions. The goal of the Care Transitions Project is to improve health care processes so that patients, their caregivers, and their entire team of providers have what they need to keep patients from returning to the hospital for ongoing care needs. Communities in the following regions have been selected to participate in the Project: Providence, R.I.; Upper Capitol Region, N.Y.; Western Pennsylvania; Southwestern New Jersey; Metro Atlanta East, Ga.; Miami; Tuscaloosa, Ala.; Evansville, Ind.; Greater Lansing Area, Mich.; Omaha, Neb.; Baton Rouge, La.; North West Denver, Colo.; Harlingen, Texas; and Whatcom County, Wash. The work of the Care Transitions Project will respond to the unique needs of each of the 14 communities. Each of the Care Transitions communities is led by a state Quality Improvement Organization (QIO). QIOs work throughout the country as part of CMS's quality program to help health care providers, consumers and stakeholder groups to refine care delivery systems to make sure all Medicare beneficiaries get the high-quality, high-value health care they deserve. Each QIO in the project is required to work with partners to implement the following:

- hospital and community system-wide interventions;
- interventions that target specific diseases or conditions; and
- interventions that target specific reasons for admission.

The following QIOs serve as Care Transitions leaders throughout the country: Quality Partners of Rhode Island; IPRO Inc. (in New York); Quality Insights of Pennsylvania; Healthcare Quality Strategies Inc. (in New Jersey); Georgia Medical Care Foundation Inc.; FMQAI (in Florida); AQAF (in Alabama); Health Care Excel (in Indiana); MPRO (in Michigan); CIMRO of Nebraska; Louisiana Health Care Review; Colorado Foundation for Medical Care; TMF Health Quality Institute (in Texas); and Qualis Health (in Washington). CMS will monitor the success of this project by watching the rates at which patients in these communities return to the hospital. Re-admission rates for hospitals have been tracked by CMS for some time, and will be available to consumers later this year through the Hospital Compare Web site at <http://www.hospitalcompare.hhs.gov>. The Care Transitions Project will continue in all 14 communities through summer 2011. For more information about the Care Transitions Project, visit <http://www.cfmco.org/caretransitions/>. To learn more about the work that QIOs are doing across the country, visit <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/qualityimprovementorgs>. ([Back to top](#)).

OSU conducts AL transition survey – A doctoral student in social work at The Ohio State University, in collaboration with the Community Long Term Division at the Ohio Department of Aging,

will be conducting a written survey of 37 assisted living (AL) facilities that participate in the AL Medicaid waiver. The aim of the survey is gather information about the consumer transition process to an AL facility from the facility's perspective. The survey will address the following questions:

- Given the existing research on transitions, which aspects of a successful transition to you find most important?
- Prior to admission to your facility, how frequently do Ohio Medicaid Assisted Living Waiver residents receive education around aspects of your facility and various components of the program?
- Prior to admission to your facility, what is the level of importance around educating Ohio Medicaid Assisted Living program residents about your facility and various components of the program?
- From your perspective as a provider, what is missing from the pre-admission process to assist in the transition of Ohio Medicaid Assisted Living program residents to your facility?

Participation in the survey is voluntary and confidential. ([Back to top](#)).

October will be here before you know it—will you have a booth? – If you haven't reserved your 2009 Trade Show booth, now is the time as many booths are off the market. 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](#)).

May 1 is the deadline for all Directory ads – The deadline for advertisements for the new *2009 OANH Membership Directory* is May 1. To remain competitive and successful in the long-term care business, it's important to continue advertising your products and services. Each directory is mailed to all Academy members—show these industry leaders that your company not only supports the long-term care community, but also the Academy! To reserve your ad, go to <http://www.oanh.org/bus-dev.pdf>. Ads received after May 1 may not be published. Burgie MediaFusion will publish the new directory. ([Back to top](#)).