



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

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**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 demonstrates commitment to the legislative goals of the association. 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 help further our interests while enjoying a beautiful day of golf and networking. **This year the outing will take place on Monday, May 24 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 “19<sup>th</sup> Hole” reception. Prices are \$250 per golfer or \$950 per foursome. Registration brochures have been mailed and you can also view the brochure [online](#). For more information and to discuss sponsorship opportunities, contact [Dawn Kennedy](#). ([Back to top](#)).

**CDJFS, CCA, SNF associations continue to discuss county issues** – The County Department of Job and Family Services Director’s Association (CDJFS), County Commissioners Association (CAA), and the three skilled nursing facility (SNF) associations met this week to further discuss Medicaid issues at the county level. Below are highlights from the meeting:

- The SNF associations presented the results of their surveys noting the counties that received high and low marks and any comments that address specific issues or best practices. The associations will use the results to help develop a list of topics to be addressed either via information sharing or training.
- The group agreed that there were two different approaches that can be used to help SNFs and counties work better together. The first method is disseminating information to the county directors and SNF administrators on policy and rule interpretations. An example of this would be the level of care flowchart created by the Office on Aging. Some counties use the chart, others do not, and others use an outdated version. The latest version of the chart could be shared with CDJFS directors along with information on when and how it is used. The second method would be training. Each association would be responsible for training depending on the personnel being trained. Joint training may be done when the information is applicable to both SNF and CDJFS staff.
- There was agreement that the state would have to be involved in the creation of materials and training. Joel Potts, Director of the CDJFS Directors Association, noted that it was the state’s responsibility to train CDJFS staff and cautioned about setting a precedent where the state

was not involved in the training of CDJFS staff.

- It was mentioned that some of the issues that slow eligibility determination are not related to CDJFS operations. These mostly revolve around the five year look back period and the required records. CDJFS workers and SNF staff will have to work together on acquiring the necessary records. ODJFS did create a standard records release form that facilities have the option to use. The form can be downloaded [here](#).

The group will meet again next week to review a list of issues and determine those that require training or that can be alleviated through better information sharing. The group will then work towards developing any joint training, information sharing, and the state's role. For more information, please contact [Chris Murray](#). ([Back to top](#)).

**RACs, MICs and MIAs—Oh my!** – RACs, MICs and MIAs are just part of the ever-changing world of SNF billing. Ensure your facility stays compliant with billing and all the issues surrounding it by attending the "**Academy Billing Summit**." The "Academy Billing Summit" is slated for Tuesday, May 18 in Columbus and will feature speakers from Cummins, Krasik & Hohl, ECS Billing & Consulting, Inc., Howard, Wershale & Co. and Richter and Associates. Topics covered will include RACs, MICs, MIAs and various other billing compliance issues. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. The program is from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and includes lunch. This class has been approved for four (4) hours of CEU from BENHA. The cost for this program is \$99 for Academy members and \$139 for non-members. A member facility may send three employees for the discounted price of \$229, a savings of \$68. Information will be faxed soon or you can register [online](#). For more information contact [Dawn Kennedy](#). ([Back to top](#)).

**“Fire Prevention” class can answer questions about YOUR facility** – Do you have questions about the Ohio Fire Code specific to your facility that you would like answered by a code enforcement official? Then plan on attending the upcoming **“Fire Prevention: Safety & Code Enforcement.”** This popular regional education class will review common citations and answer questions specific to your facility. Each class will feature both a Fire Safety Educator and a Code Enforcement Official from the Ohio Department of Commerce Division of State Fire Marshal. Fire Prevention: Safety & Code Enforcement will be held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and will include lunch. This class has been approved for four (4) hours of CEU from BENHA. Academy members may attend this popular 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! This is great opportunity for administrators, maintenance directors and nursing staff to learn together how to make their facilities safer. Dates and locations:

- **Columbus – Wednesday, June 16**  
Confluence Park Restaurant  
679 W. Spring Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43215
- **Cincinnati – Tuesday, June 22**  
Kings Island Resort and Conference  
5691 Kings Island Drive  
Mason, Ohio 45011
- **Cleveland - Thursday, June 24**  
Crowne Plaza (Formerly Skyline Hotel)  
5300 Rockside Rd.  
Independence, OH 44131

Watch your fax and email for more information or you can register [online](#). For questions, contact [Dawn Kennedy](#). ([Back to top](#)).

**Health Care Reform Analysis: Direct care training grants** – Section 5302 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) amends the Public Health Service Act to include grants for the training of direct care workers. The grants are to provide new training opportunities for direct care workers who are employed in long-term care settings such as nursing homes, assisted living facilities, skilled nursing facilities, intermediate care facilities for individuals with mental retardation, home and community based settings, and any other setting the Secretary determines to be appropriate. The grants will be awarded to accredited institutes of higher education that have established a public-private educational partnership with a long-term care provider. The funds are to offset tuition and enrollment fees so long as the individual remains in good academic standing and will work in geriatrics, disability services, long term services and supports, or chronic care management for a minimum of two years. Ten million dollars has been appropriated for federal fiscal years 2011

through 2013. ([Back to top](#)).

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

- **Notice of New Interest Rates for Medicare Overpayments and Underpayments**

The interest rates on overpayments and underpayments is determined in accordance with regulations promulgated by the Secretary of the Treasury and is the higher of the private consumer rate or the current value of funds rate prevailing on the date of final determination. Interest accrues from the date of the initial request for refund and is assessed for each 30-day period, or portion thereof, that payment is delayed after the initial refund request. Interest assessed for both late payments and installment payments is computed as simple interest using a 360-day year. Simple interest is interest that is paid on the original principal balance and after each payment interest accrues on the remaining unpaid principal balance. Interest charges will not be prorated on a daily basis for overdue payments received during the month (e.g., 10, 15, or 20 days late). Interest is assessed for the full 30-day period. The interest rate on each of the final determinations will be the rate in effect on the date the determination is made. If periodic but unscheduled payments or credits are made in different calendar quarters, the quarterly rate prevailing at the time of the final determination is charged and remains the same until the debt is liquidated. Interest must be recalculated based on the outstanding balance at 30-day intervals from the date of final determination. The interest rate charged on overpayments repaid through an approved extended repayment schedule is the rate that is in effect for the quarter in which the determination was made. The rate remains constant unless the provider defaults (i.e., misses two consecutive installment payments) on an extended repayment agreement. When the provider defaults on such an agreement, interest on the balance of the debt may be changed to the prevailing rate in effect on the date of the default if that rate is higher than the rate specified in the agreement. **To view the current rate and Period and Interest Rate chart history, [click here](#).**

- **The Continuing Extension Act of 2010 Extends Zero Percent Medicare Physician Fee Schedule (MPFS) Update**

On April 15, 2010, President Obama signed into law the “Continuing Extension Act of 2010.” This law extends through May 31, 2010, the zero percent update to the MPFS that was in effect for claims with dates of service January 1, 2010, through March 31, 2010. The law is retroactive to April 1, 2010. Consequently, effective immediately, claims with dates of service April 1 and later which were being held by Medicare contractors are being released for processing and payment. Please keep in mind that the statutory payment floors still apply and, therefore, clean electronic claims cannot be paid before 14 calendar days after the date they are received by Medicare contractors (29 calendar days for clean paper claims).

- **MLN Matters Articles**

If you missed any of the MLN Matters Articles notices over the previous 12 months, there is an archive available by [clicking here](#).

- **Press Releases**

CMS regularly publishes press releases providing beneficial information to the long-term care community. [Click here to access the many published press releases by CMS](#).

- **SNF Prospective Payment System (SNF PPS) Personal Computer (PC) Pricer Files Updated for Fiscal Year (FY) 2010**

Due to receiving quarterly provider data for April 2010, the [FY 2010 SNF PPS PC Pricer has been updated](#). ([Back to top](#)).

**Accu Medical Waste Service, Inc. has the knowledge and experience you need –**

Academy [Premier Partner](#) Accu Medical Waste Service, Inc. is a full service medical waste management company that provides the legal transportation and disposal of infectious waste. In addition, the company provides support and assistance in the implementation of cost effective waste management programs for the health care profession. Accu Medical Waste Service, Inc. has the knowledge and experience you need to effectively manage your medical waste disposal needs. With more than 40 years experience in the industry, the company can save you both time and money. Academy members can contact [Doug Parks](#) at 740/373-1168 or 866/696-8379. Visit them online at [www.accumedicalservices.com](http://www.accumedicalservices.com). Learn more about becoming an Academy Premier Partner by [clicking here](#). ([Back to top](#)).

**Now is the time to reserve your trade show booth and convention hotel rooms!**

– Guarantee placement in the booth of your choice at the 2010 OANH Annual Convention & Trade show by reserving your space today. The 2010 OANH Annual Convention & Trade Show will be held

Oct. 20-22, 2010 (Wednesday - Friday) at the Hilton Columbus at Easton. Trade show hours will be very similar to the 2009 show. Booth prices are as follows:

- Regular Booth Pricing  
Early Bird Booth Prices (Through June 30, 2010)  
OANH Member: \$875  
Non-Member: \$975  
  
Regular Booth Prices (After June 30, 2010)  
OANH Member: \$975  
Non-Member: \$1075
- Premium Booth Pricing  
Early Bird (Through June 30, 2010): \$1,075  
Regular (After June 30, 2010): \$1,275

Contracts for 2010 are available [online](#). Also, if you haven't reserved your sleeping room, do so ASAP as the Hilton Columbus at Easton has sold out early in past years. The Academy has negotiated a special discounted rate for a limited number of sleeping rooms. To make a reservation call the Hilton at 614/414-5000 and mention the **group code NUR.**, or you can reserve your rooms [online](#). If you have any questions about the convention, contact [Dawn Kennedy](#). ([Back to top](#)).

**Your message will reach hundreds of potential customers with an advertising bundle** – Take full advantage of your 2010 business development opportunities AND save money by purchasing an advertising bundle. You will save 10% on your total cost and gain maximum exposure in all three Academy publications (*OANH Membership Directory* and summer and winter issues of *The Academy Advocate*). Each publication is mailed to every OANH administrator and owner and is distributed at every Academy event—your message will reach hundreds of industry leaders! [Click here](#) to view ad measurements and prices. ([Back to top](#)).

**Get your free copy of the 2010 Ohio government directory today!** – The Academy can help you become more involved in the legislative process by providing free copies of the *2010 Ohio Legislative and Government Directory, 129<sup>th</sup> General Assembly*. This directory contains a listing of Ohio's elected representatives: United State Senators and Representatives, Ohio Senators and Representatives, Governor, Lieutenant Governor and others, as well as committee information for both the Senate and House and Cabinet Member information. If you or your facility would like copies, please email [Christina O'Neal](#) at the Academy. To find out how to get more involved through the OANH Political Action Committee or to find your state representative or senator, [click here](#). ([Back to top](#)).