



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

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FRIDAY, APRIL 29, 2011 HEADLINES:

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House budget update coming soon – The Finance Committee of the Ohio House of Representatives should have accepted a substitute bill for H.B. 153 on Thursday. The new language had not been released by the copy deadline for the *Weekly*, but the Academy will update members on the contents of any relevant changes to the budget bill once they are available and reviewed. Finance Committee is expected to introduce an omnibus amendment (one amendment containing the language of numerous amendments) on Tuesday and hold a vote at the end of next week. The Academy continues to work with legislators and other interested parties on the severity of the cuts in the budget bill and how best to mitigate the potentially devastating impact. We will keep you posted as information becomes available. ([Back to top](#)).

Game on! Two weeks until the PAC golf outing! – Are you registered to golf or be a sponsor for the upcoming OANH Political Action Committee (PAC) Golf Outing? If not, only two weeks remain until the event, so register TODAY! Participating in the outing helps the PAC earn funds to give the Academy a strong voice in legislative matters. If you aren't participating, you aren't helping. Register now to show members you support their association by being a part of this annual member favorite. This year the outing will take place on **Monday, May 16** at The Lakes, a private golf 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, sponsored by Howard, Wershale & Co. Prices are \$250 per golfer or \$950 per foursome. You can download the registration form [here](#) or contact [Dawn Kennedy](#) for more information. ([Back to top](#)).

Part II of HR Workshops will cover discipline, discharge and documentation – Join popular HR expert, Pam Krivda, Esq, of Chester Willcox & Saxbe, LLP to learn how to legally discipline and discharge employees. Disciplining or discharging an employee is one of the most likely times a facility may be sued, so it is critical you are properly prepared. Part II of the upcoming "**HR Workshops: What You Don't Know Can Hurt You!**" will give you the tools to properly document the incident and protect your facility. This session will also cover performance reviews.

Dates and locations:

Wilmington: Roberts Centre, 123 Gano Rd., Wilmington, OH 45177

- Tuesday, May 17 - Part II
- Tuesday, September 27 - Part III
- Tuesday, November 15 - Part IV

Cleveland: Crowne Plaza (formerly Skyline Hotel), 5300 Rockside Rd., Independence, OH 44131

- Thursday, May 19 - Part II
- Thursday, September 29 - Part III
- Thursday, November 17 - Part IV

Each session will be from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and will include lunch. Each session is approved for three (3) hours of CEU from BENHA, with the full series being approved for a total of twelve (12) hours of CEU. Members may attend an individual session for \$79 and non-members may attend for \$99. Information about this course has been emailed and faxed. You can also register [online](#). If you are interested in attending the remaining three parts, or have any other questions, please contact [Dawn Kennedy](#). ([Back to top](#)).

Reimbursement concerns? Check your MDS interviewing skills – Correctly conducting MDS 3.0 interviews is challenging and the results directly affect your reimbursement. If you aren't interviewing properly, you aren't getting accurate information. This class will provide tips and role-playing techniques that can be immediately implemented at the facility. Register now for "**MDS 3.0 Interviewing**" to learn who should and shouldn't interview residents and how all interviewers must be properly trained. This new course will be held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and will include lunch. The class 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 \$139. A member facility may send three employees for the discounted price of \$199, a savings of \$68!

Dates and locations:

- **Tuesday, May 24**
Roberts Centre
123 Gano Rd.
Wilmington, OH 45177
- **Wednesday, May 25**
Crowne Plaza (formerly Skyline Hotel)
5300 Rockside Rd.
Independence, OH 44131

Information about this course has been emailed and faxed. You can also register [online](#). For questions, contact [Dawn Kennedy](#). ([Back to top](#)).

AME's new FLOWT™ Mattress provides unparalleled capabilities – American Medical Equipment (AME), April's OANH Premier Partner of the Month, is the manufacturer of the new non-powered [FLOWT™ Mattress Systems](#). This innovative system provides unparalleled capabilities, including integration of a patient scale inside the mattress and optional low air loss. AME also provides a full range of other non-powered and powered mattresses, including NPWT (negative pressure wound therapy), bedside ultrasonic debridement and other specialty beds, such as bariatric, low and canopy beds. Contact [Stew Brownstein](#) at 614/237-1133 or visit [AME online](#) to see what cost savings you can receive! ([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:

- **Survey & Certification Memos**
 - [11-19: Notification of Withdrawal of Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services \(CMS\) 2252-P: Cytology Proficiency Testing \(PT\) Notice of Proposed Rulemaking \(NPRM\) \(4/8/11\)](#)
The purpose of this memo is to give notification that CMS has withdrawn the Cytology Proficiency Testing NPRM. The majority of recommendations made by the cytopathology and cytotechnology experts and the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Advisory Committee (CLIAAC) will be implemented through revised interpretive guidance and administrative policy. Cytology laboratories must continue to meet the existing regulations at 42 CFR 493.855 by enrolling and successfully participating in a CMS-approved cytology PT program for the annual testing of the subject individuals. CMS will continue to monitor cytology PT performance and to collaborate with the cytology community on all cytological quality initiatives.
 - **11-20: Contingency Plans – State Survey and Certification Activities in the Event of a Government Showdown** (not released)
This memo will not be issued but the number and title will remain.
 - [11-21: Clarifications to the Ambulatory Surgical Center \(ASC\) Interpretive Guidelines, State Operations Manual Appendix L – Obtaining consent before observing surgical procedures \(4/8/11\)](#)

ASCs may not limit surveyor ability to observe patient care. Surveyors are not required to sign documents or provide proof of vaccinations in order to observe a surgical procedure and they are not required to obtain the consent of the operating physician prior to observing a surgical procedure. Surveyors will obtain patient's consent and conduct themselves in a manner that protects patient safety and that does not interfere with the operating physician or procedure.

- [11-22: Quality Assurance and Performance Improvement \(QAPI\) Initiatives related to Section 6102 \(c\) of the Affordable Care Act for Nursing Homes \(4/8/11\)](#)

Section 6102 (c) of the Affordable Care Act requires CMS to establish QAPI standards and provide technical assistance to nursing homes on the development of best practices in order to meet such standards. A nursing home QAPI prototype will be tested in a small nursing home demonstration project conducted by an independent contractor in the summer of 2011. In addition to the existing Quality Assessment and Assurance (QAA) regulation currently found at 42 CFR, Part 483.75(o), CMS will promulgate a new QAPI regulation.

- [11-23: Notice - Third Opportunity National Background Check Program Funding \(4/22/11\)](#)
CMS has released the third solicitation for the National Background Check Program for any states or U.S. territories that were unable to meet the previous deadline for submitting their applications under the previous solicitation. The Nationwide Program for National and State Background Checks for Direct Patient Access Employees of Long Term Care Facilities and Providers solicitation can be accessed by [clicking here](#). Applications are due June 30, 2011.
- [11-24: New Initiative: Partnership for Patients: Better Care, Lower Costs \(4/22/11\)](#)
Partnership for Patients: Better Care, Lower Costs is a new public-private partnership that brings together leaders of major hospitals, employers, health plans, physicians, nurses, and patient advocates, along with state and federal governments, in a shared effort to make hospital care safer, more reliable, and less costly. CMS will support new efforts to:
 - 1) **Keep hospital patients from getting injured or sicker.** By the end of 2013, preventable hospital-acquired conditions would decrease by 40 percent compared to 2010.
 - 2) **Help patients heal without complication.** By the end of 2013, preventable complications during a transition from one care setting to another would be decreased so that all hospital readmissions would be reduced by 20 percent compared to 2010.

For additional information about the Partnership for Patients, [click here](#).

- **States Given More Flexibility**

The information contained in [these five documents](#) announce four initiatives to give states more flexibility to adopt innovative new practices and provide better, more coordinated care for people with Medicaid and Medicare while helping reduce costs for states and families. The flexibilities include: funding to develop better ways to coordinate care for dual eligibles; increased flexibility to provide home and community-based services for more people living with disabilities; more money to develop simpler and more efficient information technology systems to modernize Medicaid enrollment; and approval of a proposal by New Jersey for flexibility to expand health coverage for low income residents

- **From the MLN**

- A new publication titled ["Signature Requirements"](#) is now available in downloadable format. This fact sheet is designed to provide education on signature requirements to healthcare providers, and includes information on the documentation needed to support a claim submitted to Medicare for medical services.
- A new publication titled ["Inpatient Rehabilitation Services"](#) is now available in downloadable format. This fact sheet is designed to provide education on inpatient rehabilitation services to healthcare providers, and includes information on the documentation needed to support a claim submitted to Medicare for inpatient rehabilitation services.

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Federal legislation introduced to remove therapy caps – Senator Ben Cardin (D-MD) and nine cosponsors recently introduced S. 829, while in the House, Representatives Jim Gerlach (R-PA) and Xavier Becerra (D-CA) introduced H.R. 1546. Both bills would repeal the caps on therapy services that have threatened patient access to medically necessary therapy since 1997. Congress has delayed imposition of the therapy cap by extending moratoria. The cap became effective in 2006, but Congress authorized an exceptions process that enables patients needing extended rehabilitative care to receive it. The therapy cap exceptions process is currently authorized through December 31, 2011. The current cap for physical therapy and speech language pathology services combined is \$1,870. For occupational therapy services, the limit is \$1,870 in 2011.

(Source: The National Association for the Support of Long Term Care (NASL), www.nasl.org)

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NOW is the time to advertise in *The Advocate* – First-time advertisers in the upcoming summer magazine of *The Academy Advocate* will **receive 20% off!** Take advantage of this discount and purchase your ad NOW! The more you advertise the more potential you have to grow your business! [Click here](#) to view ad measurements and prices. Ads are due no later than May 27. Please email [Christina O'Neal](#) with any questions. [\(Back to top\).](#)

"Like" us on Facebook for a chance to win a free education course! – If you like us—show us! Everyone who "likes" our [Facebook page](#) between now and Friday, May 27, will be entered into a drawing for a free 2011 education course! The Academy has customized the page with photos of award recipients, the convention and seminars, as well as information on upcoming events. Leave a message on our wall and let us know you stopped by for a visit! [\(Back to top\).](#)

Check out the updated PC3 website – Visit the updated [PC3 website](#) to see updates that include links to the Consistent Assignment Webinar, "Tools for Change-Adoption" and "Tools for Change-Artifacts." Also, please save the date for the next PC3 conference: March 12, 2012 at the Aladdin Shrine Center in Columbus. [\(Back to top\).](#)

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