



OANH Special Services



CompManagement, Inc.
A Sedgwick CMS Company

OANH Premier Partners



Become a Premier Partner!

FRIDAY, JUNE 5, 2009 HEADLINES:

[Senate passes budget; difficult conference committee looms](#)

[Prevent fire code violations with "Fire Prevention" class](#)

[PAAs no longer processing all LOC requests for Medicaid MCP enrollees](#)

[It's here! Save the date for Intermediate QIS](#)

[MedCorp: growing to meet the needs of more and more communities](#)

[Update from CMS](#)

[Time is running out to score a touchdown with Early Bird booth pricing at convention](#)

[Medicare begins supplier education for the competitive bidding program for certain medical equipment and supplies](#)

[HOME Choice update](#)

[In slow economy, OANH Career Board can make things easier](#)

Senate passes budget; difficult conference committee looms – The Ohio Senate passed the budget bill (Am. Sub. H.B. 1) on Wednesday afternoon. The bill contained several provisions that impact long-term care, including freezing skilled nursing facility (SNF) rates for providers above the price, increasing the bed tax by \$0.70 and increasing direct care prices. Full details of changes in the budget bill relating to SNFs [can be found here](#). The House is not expected to non-concur with the bill until the middle of next week. The bill will then move into Conference Committee where the House and Senate will try to settle their differences. While the Senate trimmed \$650 million from the House version of the bill, the revenue estimates that the Office of Budget and Management (OBM) will probably release next week are expected to be several billion dollars less than earlier estimates. Given the dramatic differences between the House and Senate versions of education funding and the most likely need to cut billions more, it will be difficult to reach agreement on many issues in conference committee. While both the House and Senate have indicated they do intend to pass a two-year budget, neither the House nor the Senate have dismissed a continuation budget or one-year budget. The Academy will continue to advocate for fair funding for SNFs over the next three weeks as legislators tackle the difficult task of balancing the budget. ([Back to top](#)).

Prevent fire code violations with "Fire Prevention" class – Prevent your facility from getting cited by code enforcement for Fire Code violations by 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.

- **Cleveland – Tuesday, July 14**
Holiday Inn Independence
6001 Rockside Road
Independence, Ohio 44131

- **Columbus – Thursday, July 16**
Confluence Park Restaurant
679 W. Spring Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215
- **Cincinnati – Wednesday, July 22**
Kings Island Resort and Conference
5691 Kings Island Drive
Mason, Ohio 45011

Watch your fax and email for more information or you can register online at <http://www.oanh.org/educationalofferings.shtml>. For questions, contact [Dawn Kennedy](#). [\(Back to top\)](#).

PAAs no longer processing all LOC requests for Medicaid MCP enrollees – One part of the decision process that a Medicaid managed care provider (MCP) must make to approve or deny nursing facility admission for MCP enrollees includes whether or not the individual meets the Medicaid level of care (LOC) criteria. When the Medicaid Aged, Blind, Disabled (ABD) managed care program was first rolled out, some facilities were having difficulty with MCPs using a different LOC criteria than the state Medicaid LOC. Because of this, facilities were encouraged to obtain an LOC for Medicaid MCP enrollees from the Passport Administrative Agency (PAA) upon admission to facilitate the appeal process if one was necessary. ODJFS has established that the LOC determination will be made only by the MCP because of concerns about potential problems that could occur within ODJFS computer systems when a separate LOC determination is made and as part of an effort to use resources more efficiently. This also reinforces the policy that only the MCP will approve or deny NF admissions for these individuals and, therefore, the PAA does not have the authority to issue a separate LOC determination. Below outlines how the PAAs were instructed to handle LOC requests and PAS-ID reviews for MCP enrollees:

- Upon receipt of a request for a LOC review for an individual currently enrolled in an MCP who is seeking admission to a nursing facility, the PAA shall not process the request. And the PAA shall inform the submitter that the PAA does not have the authority to process the request; that the approval or denial of the NF admission rests with the MCP.
- The PAA shall continue to process LOC requests for individuals currently enrolled in an MCP who are in a NF when the request is for a change in payor from MCP to Medicaid Fee For Service.
- The PAA shall continue to perform PAS-ID reviews for individuals currently enrolled in an MCP who are seeking admission to a nursing facility.

[\(Back to top\)](#).

It's here! Save the date for Intermediate QIS – Mark your calendars now for this much-requested follow up to the highly successful “Basic QIS” courses that were held in Cleveland, Columbus and Cincinnati during the month of March. “**Intermediate QIS**” is slated for Tuesday, August 18 in Columbus. It will expand on your basic QIS knowledge and take you to the next level of understanding. Participants in “Intermediate QIS” should have attended “Basic QIS” or have a basic knowledge of the QIS process. Watch your fax and email for more information. For questions, contact [Dawn Kennedy](#). [\(Back to top\)](#).

MedCorp: growing to meet the needs of more and more communities – As MedCorp Mobile Medical Services continues to expand its growth throughout Ohio, the company maintains its diversified services and state of the art equipment to provide 24 hour, 7-day a week coverage of emergency and non-emergency requests. MedCorp, an [Academy Premier Partner](#), offers premium equipment to provide critical care transports for cardiac, ventilator and neonatal patients. In addition, the equipment in the Advance Life Support vehicles (ALS) is continuously updated, including EKG monitors with built in pulse oximeters, pharmaceuticals, IV pumps and automatic ventilators. MedCorp also has a fleet of ambulances for non-emergency wheelchair transportation of wheelchair bound and special needs children. To find out how you can benefit from MedCorp's services, contact Richard Bage at 419/727-7000. [\(Back to top\)](#).

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

- **Survey & Certification Memos**
 - [09-39: Food Procurement at 42 CFR 483.35\(i\)\(1\)\(2\), Tag F371, and Self Determination and Participation at 42 CFR 483.15, Tag F 242 \(5/29/09\)](#)
This memorandum clarifies that the language at 42 CFR 483.35(i), Tag F371 “Procure food from sources approved or considered satisfactory by Federal, State or local authorities” is

intended solely for the foods procured by the facility. A revision has been made to the interpretive guidelines at F371 to further clarify this intent. Foods accepted by residents from visitors, family, friends, or other guests are not subject to the regulatory requirement at F371 and residents have the right to choose to accept food from visitors, family, friends, or other guests according to their rights to make choices at §483.15, F 242, Self Determination and Participation.

- [09-40: Intermediate Care Facilities for the Mentally Retarded \(ICF/MR\) – The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 \(Recovery Act\) One-time Cash Benefit to ICF/MR Clients \(5/29/09\)](#)

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act) provides for a one-time cash benefit of \$250 to certain eligible individuals who receive a Social Security benefit, Railroad Retirement Pension, Veterans Administration disability pension and Supplemental Security Income (SSI). Many ICF/MR clients may be eligible for this one-time cash benefit. The money is for the client's personal use and must not be used to pay for facility services. Representative Payees are required by law to use this payment for the personal benefit of the client. The one-time benefit will be sent separately from the routine Social Security or SSI benefit payment. Validation of inappropriate use of these payments by ICF/MR facilities who serve in the role of "payee" should be cited at 42 CFR 483.410 (b) Compliance with Federal, State and Local Laws.

- **Natural Gas Generator Backup Fuel Source Letter Requirements**

Below are clarifications related to the backup fuel source for natural gas generators:

- All nursing homes are required to have an on-site backup power source. If a facility uses a natural gas generator to provide backup power to LSC required systems (i.e., emergency lights, exit lights, fire alarm system, etc.), the facility may obtain a letter from its natural gas vendor to demonstrate the fuel source is reliable and able to meet the requirements for an on-site backup power source. A facility with a natural gas generator may use other means to meet the requirements for an on-site backup power source that do not require a letter from its natural gas vendor.

The letter of reliability from the vendor regarding the fuel supply must contain all of the following:

1. A statement of reasonable reliability of the natural gas delivery
2. A brief description that supports the statement regarding the reliability
3. A statement that there is a low probability of interruption of the natural gas
4. A brief description that supports the statement regarding the low probability of interruption
5. The signature of technical personnel from the natural gas vendor.

****Academy Members note: The Academy has been actively communicating with CMS and the state of Ohio to provide clarification on this issue.***

- **EMTALA**

CMS Manual System, Pub 100-07 State Operations Provider Certification, Transmittal 46, ["Revisions to Appendix V, "Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act \(EMTALA\) Interpretive Guidelines,"](#) was released May 29, 2009.

- **Five-Star Quality Rating Data**

Nursing Home Compare was updated with May's Five-Star data on Thursday, May 28, 2009. The Five-Star provider preview reports became available Wednesday, May 20, 2009. Providers were able to access the report from the MDS State Welcome pages available at the state servers for submission of Minimum Data Set data. BetterCare@cms.hhs.gov is available to address May's data concerns and/or issues. The helpline will reopen in July to coincide with quarterly QM data updates.

[\(Back to top\).](#)

[Time is running out to score a touchdown with Early Bird booth pricing at convention](#)

– Don't miss the chance to score a touchdown at the sports-themed OANH Convention & Trade Show by saving money on your 2009 trade show booth. Be an all-star for your company and register for your booth before June 30 and save at least \$100! Reserve your 2009 Trade Show booth now to get your preferred location. 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

The 2009 Exhibitor & Sponsor Prospectus has been mailed. The prospectus and contracts for 2009 are available via the [OANH website](#), or you can contact [Dawn Kennedy](#) to reserve your booth. ([Back to top](#)).

Medicare begins supplier education for the competitive bidding program for certain medical equipment and supplies – The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced earlier this week the next steps in the implementation of the Round One Rebid of the Medicare Competitive Bidding Program for durable medical equipment, prosthetics, orthotics, and supplies (DMEPOS), including the general timeline for opening the bid window in the fall of this year. CMS will now begin general “pre-bidding” supplier awareness and education efforts on key steps suppliers need to take now to be ready for registration and bidding including getting appropriate State licenses, updating Medicare enrollment files with the National Supplier Clearinghouse and getting accredited and bonded. The bidder registration period is expected to begin this summer before bidding opens in the fall. CMS has made a number of process improvements for the Round One Rebid, such as an upgraded on-line bid submission system, early bidder education, and increased oversight of bidders that are new to product categories or competitive bidding areas to ensure they meet CMS’ requirements.

Additional information on the DMEPOS competitive bidding program is available at:

http://www.cms.hhs.gov/DMEPOSCompetitiveBid/01_overview.asp#TopOfPage

The entire CMS press release issued June 2 is available at:

https://www.cms.hhs.gov/apps/media/press_releases.asp

The CMS fact sheet issued June 2 is available at:

https://www.cms.hhs.gov/apps/media/fact_sheets.asp

(Source: CMS Press Release June 2, 2009)

([Back to top](#)).

HOME Choice update –HOME Choice is a demonstration program funded by a “Money Follows the Person” grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services. The main objective of HOME Choice is to “transition” people who are living in a long-term care facility or an intermediate care facility/mental retardation (ICFMR) into the community. Below are the latest statistics for the HOME Choice program:

- 149 consumers enrolled and moved to community
- 584 people have applied
- 45 transition coordination agencies providing services in each of Ohio’s 88 counties
- 115 agency service providers
- 141 non-agency service providers

(Source: HOME Choice Bulletin, Spring 2009, Volume 1, Issue 2) ([Back to top](#)).

In slow economy, OANH Career Board can make things easier – In this slow economy, employers can fill available positions more efficiently and career seekers can find their new employment faster by using the OANH Career Board! Here’s how:

Employers—fill available positions more efficiently:

- Go to <https://www.oanh.org/jobs/index.cgi> and complete the form for processing and activation.
- Academy members can post jobs at no charge (non-members must pay a nominal fee of \$50).
- All listings will appear for two months, unless the position is filled sooner.

Career seekers—find new employment faster:

- Go to <https://www.oanh.org/resumes/jobs2.pl?type=all> and submit your resume at no charge.
- Your resume will be posted for two months, unless you find your employer sooner.

Go to <http://www.oanh.org/oew.shtml> for other employment websites. Contact [Christina O’Neal](#) for more information. ([Back to top](#)).