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## Stay Up-to-Date on Changes in Regulations and Systems

A vital part of a long-term care professional's job is staying up to date on ever-changing regulations and system and program updates. This year brings numerous changes in regulations and processes in the long-term care profession. From the implementation of Phase III of the CMS Requirements of Participation in November to the Patient-Driven Payment Model (PDPM) replacing the current payment system in October, to the new eligibility system, LaMeds, it is certainly challenging to stay apprised of the most recent informational updates, resources and deadlines. This edition of the Lagniappe newsletter reviews the most pertinent topics and changes in our profession including Phase III of the Requirements of

Participation, the Patient-Driven Payment Model, the State Incident Management System, LaMeds and CNA testing through Prometric.

### Requirements of Participation (RoP) Phase III Implemented in Nov. 2019

Phase III of the CMS Requirements of Participation (RoP) takes effect on November 28, 2019.

This final phase of the RoP touches on multiple issues and care processes and the regulations require new systems, personnel and training. A significant emphasis is training and competency, focusing on specific areas in addition to needs identified in the facility assessment. Nurse assistant training is emphasized, including dementia management, care for residents with cognitive impairments and abuse prevention. Click [here](#) to learn more.

During a discussion with LDH's Cecile Castello in February 2019, she noted that quality assurance (QA) will be significant in RoP Phase III. Facilities should conduct a facility-wide assessment which includes assessing residents and looking at the facility's performance on CMS quality measures.

LDH believes that CMS will continue to emphasize falls and antipsychotic use during Phase III. The Department, at this time, has no plans to require specific trainings or programs to be completed for Phase III. LDH advised facilities to assess their residents and examine what can be done to improve their quality of life.

Also, Phase III mandates that every nursing facility has a designated and specially trained Infection Preventionist who is running a comprehensive infection prevention and control program.

## PDPM is Coming! Are You Ready?



The Patient-Driven Payment Model (PDPM) will be the new CMS payment system replacing the current RUG-IV system on October 1, 2019. PDPM will be the most significant change in how skilled nursing facilities are paid since 1998.

To assist you and your staff in preparation for this massive change, LNHA is partnering with AHCA to provide a second Patient-Driven Payment Model Academy Workshop. This one-day, hands-on workshop will be held at the Holiday Inn Downtown – Alexandria on July 16. This is a great opportunity for those who missed the PDPM Academy Workshop in January to get the knowledge and support needed for a successful transition to PDPM. It is also an excellent opportunity for those who attended the previous training to solidify what they learned. Attendance to the workshop will provide access to AHCA PDPM Academy resources and monthly webinars. You must be a member of LNHA to attend this workshop.

LNHA encourages you to take advantage of the many webinars, resources and toolkits created by AHCA and CMS to assist you in preparation. Click [here](#) to review the PDPM Resource Center webpage accessible by all AHCA members. For those who attended the in-person training, click [here](#) to access the attendees-only accessible information. Click [here](#) to review the PDPM webpage which includes fact sheets, frequently asked questions, presentations and various resources.

## SIMS Replacing OTIS Reporting System

On March 22, LDH disseminated a [memorandum](#) announcing its plans to launch a new incident reporting system that will replace the current Online Tracking Incident System (OTIS). The new system is named the State Incident Management System (SIMS). Your facility will be assigned two user accounts to access SIMS. All other requirements for incident reporting will remain unchanged. Nursing facilities in LDH region 3 are piloting the roll-out of SIMS (St. Mary, Assumption, St. James, St. John, St. Charles, Lafourche and Terrebonne).

Thanks to LDH for offering in-person training at the Spring Conference and Trade Show.

## New Medicaid Eligibility & Enrollment System, LaMeds

In November 2019, the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) transitioned to a new Medicaid eligibility system, LaMeds, and facilities experienced eligibility issues. In an effort to provide a solution, LDH issued a payment to approximately 200 nursing facilities in February. As stated in their [announcement](#), this payment will be recouped. LDH announced that the payment will be recouped in its entirety in the June 10, 2019, checkwrite. The recoupment will be automatic. If you received a payment, be prepared for this recoupment.

LNHA has worked closely with LDH to provide additional solutions to fix the issues member facilities were experiencing. LDH implemented several processes and resources to address these concerns including a dedicated email account to address concerns; a weekly provider conference call; a bi-weekly support coordinators call; an LDH Provider Bulletin posted every two weeks; a [resource library](#) and various [videos](#); and quick reference guides explaining the process for a nursing facility to become a [satellite location](#) and a person to become a [trusted user](#). Most recently, LDH has coordinated 30-minute weekly one-on-one calls with each nursing facility and an LDH long-term care analyst which provides a direct line of communication for all questions and concerns. You should have received an email from an LDH analyst within the past two weeks with the information to set-up your first call.

- LTC Contact Us form: [www.ldh.la.gov/contactlhc](http://www.ldh.la.gov/contactlhc)
- LNHA Resource Library: <http://ldh.la.gov/index.cfm/page/3584>
- Provider page with system information and call agendas, minutes and cancelations: [www.ldh.la.gov/index.cfm/page/3587](http://www.ldh.la.gov/index.cfm/page/3587)

## CNA Testing with Prometric



On February 25, 2019, LNHA met with the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) to discuss certified nursing aide (CNA) testing through Prometric. LNHA created a [document](#) detailing the information discussed in the meeting for members to review. A helpful LDH PowerPoint presentation from February 2019 regarding CNA testing can be found [here](#). Remember, CNA

students are encouraged to take a free practice test [here](#) starting on page 14. Students may also purchase up to three additional, unique practice tests for the knowledge test or up to five skill practice tests. Purchase additional practice tests [here](#).

## Facilities Earn Annual Deficiency-Free Survey



LNHA congratulates the staff and leadership of the following five LNHA member nursing facilities for earning a deficiency-free survey during their most recent state inspection:

- Camelot of Brookside in Jennings
- Camelot Place in Rayne
- Colonial Nursing Home in Marksville
- Hessmer Nursing Home in Hessmer
- Forest Haven Nursing & Rehabilitation Center in Jonesboro

Great job on this outstanding achievement! Receiving a deficiency-free rating in a highly regulated profession requires a high level of care, service and attention to detail. If your facility earns a deficiency-free survey or an overall five-star rating, contact [kmiller@lnha.org](mailto:kmiller@lnha.org) so your accomplishment can be recognized on the LNHA [Facebook page](#) or in the Lagniappe newsletter.



The Lagniappe newsletter is published by the Louisiana Nursing Home Association. If you have questions regarding this publication, contact Lagniappe Editor [Karen Miller](#).