

Table of Contents

- Page 1 • National Long Term Care Administrator's Week
• DHH Letter Addresses Calculation Errors
• Registrants Can Now Pay Online by Credit Card
- Page 2 • HHS Care Planning Guide for Emergencies
• Five-Star: What You Need to Know
- Page 3 • 60 Seconds with Joy Solomon
• National Nursing Home Week Product Guide
- Page 4 • What Not to Do with Someone Who Has Alzheimer's
• Attend the Congressional Briefing with LNHA
- Page 5 • LNHA's Upcoming Events and Trainings
• LNHA Facilities Earn Deficiency-Free Survey

National Long Term Care Administrator's Week

Join LNHA in celebrating National Long Term Care Administrator's Week, March 13-19, 2016. LNHA commends, salutes and thanks administrators in nursing facilities and assisted living facilities who are committed to providing excellent quality of care for the most vulnerable.



The American College of Health Care Administrators has sponsored the national observance each March since 1994 to honor and celebrate the role administrators play in providing leadership for the delivery of quality care.

DHH Releases Letter Addressing Calculation Errors

The Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH) recently released a letter addressing calculation errors in the Patient Liability (PLI) for the month of February 2016. The letter reads as follows:

Some long term care payments for February dates of services contained errors related to the Patient Liability (PLI) calculation due to this being a leap year. DHH and Molina are aware of this issue and have worked to resolve it. You do not need to take any action. Molina will recycle impacted claims and adjust them so that payments will be made correctly. This will be done on the March 22, 2016 Remittance Advice. Read the full letter [here](#).

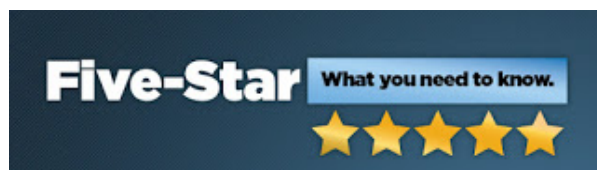
Registrants Can Now Pay Online by Credit Card



Did you know that you can pay your registration fee online with a credit card for any LNHA event? Take advantage of this new service today and reserve your spot for the 2016 LNHA Spring Conference and Trade Show in Baton Rouge on May 3-4. This year's theme is "Dancing with the Five-Stars." View the [agenda](#) and [register](#) today!

HHS Care Planning Guide for Emergencies

LNHA is selling a U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Care Planning Guide for Emergencies. The guide includes situational awareness, planning requirements, crisis standards of care, staffing and more. To order a copy for \$35, click [here](#) and click the “Buy Now” button to pay with a credit card. For more information, contact jbrady@lnha.org.



On March 3, [CMS announced](#) the addition of new quality measures (QMs) to Nursing Home Compare (NHC) and the Five-Star Quality Rating System. The new measures are a part of the agency’s effort to track and encourage improvements in nursing facilities for short-stay and long-stay patients and residents. These new additions also build on what CMS [announced](#) in February of 2015.

There are six new measures: four short-stay and two long-stay. The new short-stay measures are discharge back to the community, emergency room use, rehospitalizations, and improvement in function. Three of the four are aligned with the AHCA Quality Initiative. The new long-stay measures are decline in mobility and the use of hypnotics/anxiolytics.

By the end of April, all six of the new measures will be added to NHC and will be accessible to the public. And in July, all but one measure—hypnotics/anxiolytics—will be added to Five-Star. CMS has not yet announced how the new QMs will impact the overall star rating.

AHCA hosted a webinar on March 4th that walked through these new updates in greater detail. The recorded presentation, along with more specifics on the new measures, are available to members [here](#).

What can you do over the next few weeks to prepare for the addition of the new measures in April and in July? [Register](#) for free to access members-only Five-Star resources on ahcancaLED. Current resources include the March 4th AHCA webinar, the questions and answers from that webinar, and specifics on the new measurements. To access the resources on the site, you must 1) [log in](#) using your AHCA username and password and 2) [register](#) to download the Five-Star materials. Contact educate@ahca.org if you need any assistance. For more ways to prepare, click [here](#).

60 Seconds with Joy Solomon



Q: When you heard a nursing facility employee was shot by her ex-husband in the facility parking lot in December, what was your first thought?

A: It was that people around her in the community had awareness that there was something very bad going on in her marriage. The question for me is what are we doing to support the safety of people who are in situations like hers.

Q: Can you explain It's Your Call?

A: This is a program that supports all employees at the Hebrew Home [RiverSpring Health]. It involves all employees having training on what domestic violence is, and that it doesn't stay at home. Every time we have done a training, someone has come up or contacted us, and said, "This is my situation currently," or, "This is what happened to me before." The statistics—1 in 4 women have said they've been attacked by a partner—were accurate within our own systems.

Q: What are the legal and moral obligations of a provider?

A: Every state is different. The moral responsibility is quite different from the legal responsibility. People do have the right to expect that they work in an environment that is safe. If you're being beaten up at home, it's hard to come into work and provide excellent care for frail elderly people.

Attorney Joy Solomon is director and managing attorney at the Weinberg Center and director of Elder Abuse Services at the Pace Women's Justice Center. This article is reprinted from McKnight's Long-Term Care News.

What Not to Do with Someone Who Has Alzheimer's



For family members of those with Alzheimer's, there are a few mistakes I have seen people making that can be avoided with education.

Never refuse to accept

Medically speaking, it's a lot easier to be in denial when people are completely unaware of the signs and symptoms of chronic and degenerative medical conditions. Many people who experience breathlessness and begin to sweat profusely after mild exertion often refuse to consider the possibility that something may be wrong with their heart, until something terribly serious happens with them.

With Alzheimer's, we must work on acceptance. We should not ask "Do you remember?" Long-term care professionals can even make this mistake.

There's no point in even trying to jog their memory to recall things from the past. What can be helpful, and encouraged, is to frame a story, such as, "I remember, the first time we met was when you were in college working overtime at the pub to make extra money..."

Never get into an argument

It is difficult to win an argument or a discussion against someone who's suffering from dementia; they believe that they are right and will stay adamant. This comes up with discussion about activities of daily living. Find a way to work together.

Transitioning into a nursing facility

We need to do more education on when it's time to move an Alzheimer's patient into a nursing facility. It's important to remind caregivers of the importance of their own quality of life, especially if the spouse is aging.

Still, it's important to remind people to visit. Even if the Alzheimer's resident doesn't remember a person, just the thought of being visited by someone makes them feel better as they tend to thrive on social stimulation. So, even when things are almost close to the end and you're really busy, take out some time and drop by to say a quick hello.

Article reprinted from McKnight's Long-Term Care News.

Attend the AHCA/NCAL Congressional Briefing with LNHA



May 23-24, 2016

Renaissance Washington, DC Downtown

LNHA's Upcoming Events and Save the Dates!



New events have been added to the [News and Events web page](#) and to the online calendar. To register for an event, visit www.lnha.org and click the calendar icon on the home page and select the appropriate event.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- May 3-4: LNHA Spring Conference, Baton Rouge

SAVE THE DATES:

- June: Social Service Director
- August: Director of Nursing Boot Camp



LNHA Facilities Earn Deficiency-Free Survey

LNHA congratulates three facilities for achieving a deficiency-free annual survey.

- Kaplan Healthcare Center, Kaplan
- Senior Village Nursing Home, Opelousas
- Thibodaux Healthcare Center, Thibodaux

LNHA appreciates your hard work, compassionate care and unyielding commitment to provide quality services to your community.

If your facility achieves a deficiency-free annual survey and would like to be recognized in the *Lagniappe* newsletter, contact Karen Miller at kmiller@lnha.org.



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