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Five Louisiana Nursing Facilities Named Bronze Quality Award Recipients



BRONZE
Commitment to Quality

The American Health Care Association/
National Center

for Assisted Living (AHCA/NCAL) announced that five Louisiana nursing facilities are [2015 Bronze Quality Award](#) recipients through their AHCA/NCAL Quality Award Program. The Bronze criteria are based on the Organizational Profile section of the Baldrige Health Care Criteria for Performance Excellence.

The Louisiana nursing facilities receiving the 2015 Bronze Quality Award are:

- Camelot Brookside, Jennings
- Old Jefferson Community Care Center, Baton Rouge
- Bayou Vista Community Care Center, Bunkie
- Oak Have Community Care Center, Center Point
- Baton Rouge Health Care Center, Baton Rouge

At the bronze level, facilities develop an organizational profile with essential performance elements such as vision and mission statements and an assessment of customers' expectations. They also demonstrate their ability to implement a performance improvement system. (Continued on page 2)

New CMS Directive

CMS notified State Medicaid Directors on June 1st that they have 60 days to begin the implementation of an Affordable Care Act mandate to establish the procedures for screening providers and suppliers under Medicare, Medicaid and CHIP. The implementation must be completed by June 1, 2016. Under the provisions of 42 CFR 455.434, states must establish categorical risk levels for "provider and provider categories who pose an increased financial risk of fraud, waste or abuse to the Medicaid program. The risk levels are "limited," "moderate," or "high." The state will screen all applications, including initial application, applications for a new practice location, and applications for re-enrollment or revalidation. (Continued on page 4)

Join the conversation and connect with LNHA today!

Five Louisiana Nursing Facilities Named Bronze Quality Award Recipients (cont.)

Success at the bronze level permits organizations to move on to achieve the Silver Award representing achievement in quality and improved health outcomes. Facilities may then move on to achieve the Gold Award representing excellence in quality and customer and staff satisfaction. Working with AHCA/NCAL, member facilities apply for the progressive level of awards completing each level's distinct rigors and requirements for policy and performance excellence. The Louisiana Nursing Home Association commends our recipient facilities for their commitment to this very outstanding award.

Court Grants Class-Act Certification Against Golden Living Centers on UNDERSTAFFING Claim

Claims of chronic understaffing against 12 Golden Living Centers-operated Arkansas nursing facilities will be tried as a class action lawsuit, the Arkansas Supreme Court has ruled. An Arkansas trial court gave the case class certification in 2014, due to a proposed class including more than 3,400 residents. The residents' claims allege that inadequate staffing went against the facilities' admission contracts, and violated the Arkansas Long-Term Care Residents' Rights Act and Arkansas Deceptive Trade Practices Act. They also are seeking damages for issues they say are linked to understaffing.

Golden Living Centers challenged the initial class certification, claiming that the common questions didn't predominate over individual residents' issues. The Arkansas Supreme Court disagreed, stating a class action suit would be more efficient than individual trials, and the issue of a contractual or statutory liability created by understaffing could be resolved in a single proceeding.

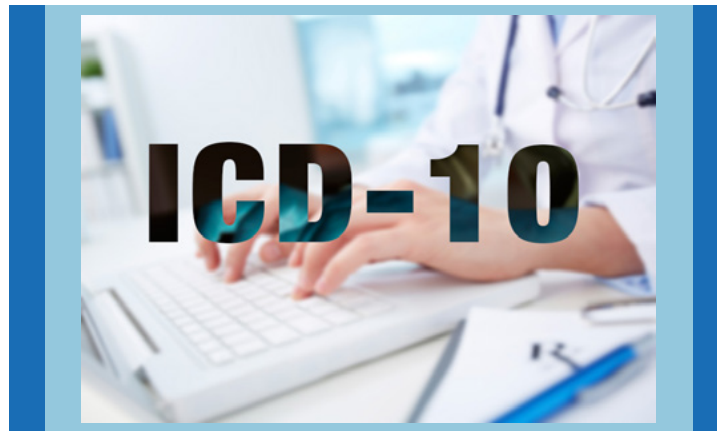
"Otherwise, there exists a possibility of a multiplicity of suits across the state with the potential that circuit courts may reach inconsistent results," the court said in a ruling released Thursday.

The court also said the fact that 12 nursing facilities are involved in the suit wouldn't impact its efficiency.

In Memoriam: Bob Bates

It is with great sadness to report Bob Bates passed away this past April in Texas as a result of a lengthy illness. In 1979, Bob moved to Louisiana with Healthcare Management Inc., which later became ARA Living Centers, which then became Living Centers of America. Bob also served on the LNHA board. As Regional Director of Operations, Bob oversaw three facilities in Louisiana, two in Florida, two in Illinois, one in West Virginia, and one in Kentucky. His regional assignment changed to a point where there were 12 facilities in Louisiana and one in Mississippi. In 1984, due to massive reorganization, he was pulled to Indiana as interim Vice-President of the Eastern Division of the corporation overseeing some 45 facilities in Louisiana, Mississippi, Indiana, Illinois, Ohio and West Virginia.

In 1986, he returned to New Orleans to resume the position of Regional Director of Operations. In 1987, he left Louisiana and moved to Olathe, Kansas, to work with another corporation. In 2000, Bob was working out of Dallas, Texas, for Extendicare Health Services, but returned to Louisiana by virtue of management contracts with three facilities in New Orleans. In 2002, Bob's division was spun off and he founded Transition Health Services Inc. He continued to oversee management of the Louisiana properties and was a co-owner of one of those facilities. He retired in early 2014. He will be greatly missed by family and friends and by those who worked for him and were mentored by him.



Countdown to ICD-10-CM: Are You Ready?

LNHA has teamed up with the Louisiana Community and Technical College System to provide a day and a half comprehensive training and education that will greatly help you in your transition to ICD-10. This transition will affect every aspect of your facility; everyone needs to prepare for the complexities and specificities of ICD-10. This training will help you understand the particulars and will share helpful guides to assist you in your American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) certification.

LOCATIONS AND DATES

- | | |
|--|------------------|
| • Northshore Community College, Hammond, LA | June 23-24, 2015 |
| • River Parishes Community College, Sorrento, LA | June 29-30, 2015 |
| • Delta Community College, Monroe, LA | July 7-8, 2015 |
| • Northwest LA Technical College, Minden, LA | July 9-10, 2015 |

PRICING: Members: \$375; Nonmembers: \$750. This price includes the following two books: ICD-10-CM Coder Training Manual, 2015 Edition, AHIMA Trainer/Ambassador and the ICD-10-CM Codebook - OPTUM.

AHIMA offers certification as a Certified Coding Associate (CCA) which requires a high school diploma or equivalent and at least six months of coding experience directly applying codes. Individuals are responsible for applying directly to AHIMA for permission to take and schedule the test. The AHIMA Candidate Guide is available [here](#). The guide provides in-depth assistance for those interested in taking the test to gain certification.

View the [flyer](#) and [register today!](#) Space is limited.

New CMS Directive (cont.)

For those providers designated as “high” risk, the state must do the following:

- Verify that the provider meets any applicable federal and/or state requirements for the provider type;
- Conduct license verifications, including those issued in other states;
- Conduct a pre- and post-enrollment database check regarding enrollment criteria;
- Conduct on-site visits in accordance with §455.436 (e.g. the National Plan and Provider Enumeration System, the Excluded Parties List System);
- Require the submission of a set of fingerprints; and
- Conduct a criminal background check (FBI preferred).

The state is not required to conduct the check on those providers who are considered as “high” risks by Medicare and those who have been enrolled by Medicare. Additionally, states have the discretion to require the “high” risk provider to pay for obtaining fingerprints.

The state “must terminate or deny enrollment if the provider who is required to submit fingerprints:

- Fails to submit them within 30 days of the Medicaid agency’s request;
- Fails to submit them in the form and manner requested by the Medicaid agency;
- Has been convicted of a criminal offense related to that person’s involvement with the Medicare, Medicaid or CHIP program in the last 10 years.”

This provision also applies to any person who has a 5% or greater direct or indirect ownership of the entity in question. The state does have the right to allow the provider to enroll if the state determines that termination or denial of enrollment is not in the best interests of the Medicaid program. The state must then document that decision in writing. The State Medicaid Director Letter #15-002, ACA #33 is available [here](#).

Gero Nurse Prep Scholarship Opportunity

The Louisiana Long Term Care Foundation has two partial scholarships available for a recommended member facility staff member to enroll in the Gero Nurse Prep Course. The online course is offered through the Nebraska Medical Center College of Nursing. AHCA is a sponsor of this program. Please take the time to review their [website](#) and email kmiller@lnha.org with your staff recommendations. Below are some frequently asked questions along with more detailed information regarding the LNHA Gero Nurse Prep scholarship. For more FAQs, see the tab on the website linked above.

1. What fees are involved:

- LNHA pays up front (\$600)
- Facility of student pays LNHA \$300 initially and gets reimbursed once the student successfully completes the course
- \$395 for the exam fee

2. Does the applicant need a Bachelor’s degree? No, just an RN license.

3. Nurse eligibility criteria to take Gerontological Certification exam:

- current active RN licensure in a U.S. state or territory - or the legally recognized equivalent in another country.
- two years full-time practice as a RN.
- a minimum of 2,000 hours of gerontological nursing practice in last 3 years.
- has completed 30 hours of continuing education in gerontological nursing within last 3 years - fully satisfied by this Gero Prep certification training program.

4. How long does the course take? It is all online and is self-paced. There are 10 learning modules. Gero Nurse Prep encourages RNs to devote 30 minutes every day. If the student does this, the course will be completed in 3-4 months.

LNHA's Upcoming Events and Save the Dates!



New events have been added to the [News and Events webpage](#) and to the e-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:

- June 23-24: ICD-10, Hammond
- June 25-26: Social Service Director Workshop, Baton Rouge
- June 29-30: ICD-10, Sorrento
- July 7-8: ICD-10, Monroe
- July 9-10: ICD-10, Minden

SAVE THE DATES:

- August 25-26: DON Boot Camp
- September 21-23: Annual Convention and Trade Show

Follow LNHA on your social media sites for the latest in news and updates!



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