2017 National Nursing Home Week theme: "The Spirit of America"

Every skilled nursing care center embodies a unique and vibrant spirit and community for residents, volunteers and staff alike. Acts of kindness, generosity and compassion from proud veterans, immigrants, and hardworking people of different faiths fill the walls of each center.

This year, during National Nursing Home Week® (NNHW), May 14 to 20, 2017, skilled nursing care centers will unite under the theme, “The Spirit of America.” This theme underscores the bond between staff, volunteers and residents that capture the American spirit. Click here to download the 2017 Planning Guide and Product Catalog! Hard copies will be mailed to members this month. To order 2017 NNHW products, visit the AHCA publications website here.

For more details and ideas, please visit the Nursing Home Week web page. Offer your ideas and comments on the week’s own Facebook page – and be sure to “friend” the page.

Established by the American Health Care Association (AHCA) in 1967 and always beginning on Mother’s Day, NNHW provides an opportunity for residents and their loved ones, staff, volunteers, and surrounding communities to recognize the role of skilled nursing care centers in caring for America’s seniors and individuals with disabilities.

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Maine Background Check Center training in Augusta

The final regional training for the Maine Background Check will be held Monday, March 6, 2017, 9:30 am - 12:30 pm, at Maine Health Care Association, 317 State Street, Augusta. The training is free and open to nursing homes and multi-level facilities at this time. Because it is web-based, attendees should bring their wi-fi enabled laptops. RSVP to ael-lis@mehca.org to reserve your space.

Visit the MBCC at https://backgroundcheck.maine.gov/DHHS/MBC/for or call toll free at 1-888-572-5839, where staff is available to answer questions and troubleshoot as providers begin using the system.

Staff Contact: Nadine Grosso, Vice President & Director of Communications
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Maine holds steady in reduction of antipsychotic use

According to CMS data through Q3 2016, Maine is holding steady, achieving a 35.7% reduction in the use of antipsychotic medications. Data analysis shows a dozen states with slightly higher reduction rates. As a national leader, Maine has officially met the CMS target of a 30% reduction by the end of 2016. The country just reached the goal at 31.8%. Even though Maine providers have technically met the goal, the Maine Partnership to Improve Dementia Care will continue working with providers to make further reductions and improvements.

CMS is tracking the progress of the Partnership by reviewing publicly reported measures. As a reminder, the official measure of the Partnership is the percent of long-stay nursing home residents who are receiving an antipsychotic medication, excluding those residents diagnosed with schizophrenia, Huntington's Disease or Tourette's Syndrome. In 2011 Q4, 23.9% of long-stay nursing home residents nationwide were receiving an antipsychotic medication; since then there has been a decrease of 32.4% to a national prevalence of 16.1% in 2016 Q3. Success has varied by state and CMS region.

The Partnership expects to hold a future planning meeting in April, where members will discuss goals and ongoing support for facilities in this effort. For more information about Partnership activities or to be added to the distribution list, please contact ngrosso@mehca.org.

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Feds may be proposing Medicaid block grants to states

Federal Medicaid reform is moving to the front and center, as part of an overall package that would repeal the Affordable Care Act. For many Republican members of Congress, this is an opportunity to revisit Medicaid block grants to states. It is likely that President Donald Trump was referring to this in his February 28th speech to Congress when he said, "We should give our great state governors the resources and flexibility they need with Medicaid to make sure no one is left out."

For advocates of eldercare, including both the American Health Care Association and AARP, the concern is that a set amount of block grant funding will inevitably be reduced over the coming years, or at least fail to keep up with rising costs. A new study by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities appears to confirm this. It reported that the use of block grants for housing, health, and social services has generally resulted in reduced funding for these programs. The analysis said federal funding for 13 major block grant programs has fallen 27 percent, or $14 billion, since 2000, or by 37 percent when adjusted for inflation and population growth.

Because these reforms appear to be on a fast track, AHCA has taken steps to bring state affiliates to Washington as soon as possible to meet with their Congressional delegations. The feeling is that waiting for our traditional June meeting with Congress may be too late for this particular issue. As a result, MHCA Board members will be travelling to Washington this month for discussions focused on Medicaid reform and block grants.

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AHCA/NCAL resource on revamping your customer service program

Developing an effective customer service program is the first and most essential step in protecting your organization's reputation and showcasing all it has to offer. This publication is a guide to cultivate strong customer service skills in your nurses, frontline staff, and any other staff members who interact with residents and families. Product #8447 Price: $130.00

Visit AHCA/NCAL's online store for more details about what this includes as well as their other training kits and manuals.

Staff Contact: Dianne Chicoine, Manager of Business & Information Services, dchicoine@mehca.org
Medicare Outpatient Observation Notice (MOON) Implementation Manual Instructions Available

According to a recent email from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), manual instructions regarding implementation of the Medicare Outpatient Observation Notice (MOON) are now available on the CMS website. The new manual instructions provide more specific detail on notice delivery and are available online.

CMS released the MOON, along with its form instructions, December 2016. As previously reported in MHCA E-News, the MOON is a standardized notice to inform beneficiaries (including Medicare health plan enrollees) that they are an outpatient receiving observation services and are not an inpatient of the hospital or critical access hospital (CAH). Outpatient status affects a patient’s ability to receive Medicare coverage for post-acute care in a skilled nursing center. The MOON is mandated by the Notice of Observation Treatment and Implication for Care Eligibility Act (NOTICE Act) enacted on August 6, 2015. AHCA/NCAL supports the NOTICE Act law. The NOTICE Act requires all hospitals and CAHs to provide written and oral notification under specified guidelines. Hospitals and CAHs must begin using the MOON no later than March 8, 2017. For questions concerning the MOON, please send an email to: MoonMailbox@cms.hhs.gov.

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Upcoming QIO Webinar on Antibiotic Stewardship March 14th

The New England QIN-QIO and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health is hosting a free webinar on Antibiotic Stewardship Programs (ASPs) on Tuesday, March 14th, 2017 from 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm. Reminder:

Antibiotic Stewardship Programs (ASPs) focuses on:
- Optimizing the use of antimicrobial agents
- Using the appropriate selection, dosing, and durations of antimicrobial therapy
- Decreasing adverse consequences
- Preventing antimicrobial resistance
- Delivering a more cost effective therapy
- Collaboration across the healthcare continuum

During the upcoming QIO webinar, you will learn
- How to identify why antibiotic resistance is considered a nationwide threat
- The relationship between antibiotic use, drug resistance and C. Difficile
- What is an ASP and what’s the benefits
- What are the key elements to successfully execute an ASP
- Why ASP must be addressed across the continuum of care

To see more information and how to register for this webinar go to: events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/ASP.

Staff Contact: Bonny Small
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Register your RNs for Gero Nurse Prep by April 30th & Save $100!

We are pleased to report that, beginning March 1st, AHCA/NCAL is running a special promotion for the Gero Nurse Prep Course. Gero Nurse Prep is a 10-module, online training program designed to prepare RNs to become board certified in Gerontological Nursing (RN-BC) by the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC). If you want to know why you should seriously consider this opportunity, start by clicking here to view the Fast Facts about Gero Nurse Prep video and read through some of the reviews posted on their website. You may also click here to visit the Gero Nurse Prep Course page on MHCA's website.

Through our State Affiliate Agreement, MHCA members already have access to deep discounts for Gero Nurse Prep participants. With this promotion, if you enroll your RNs by April 30th, you can save an additional $100 on each registration by using the Promo Code QUALITY17.

Don't miss this worthwhile opportunity. Recent analyses conducted by AHCA/NCAL show that nursing facilities with RNs who have been certified in gerontological nursing by the ANCC are twice as likely (48% as compared to 24% nationally) to have a 5-star rating from CMS. [See attached flyer for more information.]

Staff Contact: Karen Michaud
Director of Education, kmichaud@mehca.org

Changes to Payroll-Based Journal

On February 17th, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) made an announcement that they had made two important changes to the new Payroll-Based Journal (PBJ) system. The changes will make it much easier for providers to successfully submit hire, termination, and rehire for employees and will go into effect on March 19th, 2017. They are:

- Both hire and termination dates will be optional items in the system
- The same employee ID will be allowed to be used more than once in a single PBJ submission XML file

You can review these changes on the CMS Staffing Data Submission PBJ webpage, under the section what's new at: NursingHomeQualityInits/Staffing-Data-Submission-PBJ.html.

Health Care Association (AHCA) continues to work with CMS on ways that can help members to collect the requested staffing data. Their association is continuing to take feedback from you on the challenges that you face with this system. If you have any questions or concerns, please email the PBJ team at staffdatacollection@ahca.org.

Staff Contact: Bonny Small
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Next CMS SNF call will focus on Value-Based Purchasing

The next CMS SNF call on value-based purchasing, entitled, Understanding Your Facility’s Confidential Feedback Report Call, will be held Wednesday, March 15, 2017, 1:30 - 3:00 PM. On the CMS call, they will discuss:

- Quarterly confidential feedback reports
- Implementation guidance
- Understanding the significance of re-admissions
- SNF risk-standardized re-admission rates
- Navigating the QIES (Quality Improvement and Evaluation System)
- Navigating the CASPER (Certification and Survey Provider Enhanced Reporting System)
- SNF quality performance

A question and answer will follow the presentation. As a reminder, the SNF VBP Program will reward incentive payments to SNFs for their quality performance including; quality of care and promoting better clinical outcomes for SNF patients. CMS plans to begin this SNF VBP program in FY 2019. To register for the call, go to: MLN Connects Event Registration.

Staff Contact: Bonny Small, Director of Quality Improvement and Regulatory Affairs, bsmall@mehca.org
Upcoming education programs and special events

GENERAL SEMINARS & CONFERENCES:
- April 11, 2017—Don’t Get Burned on Your Next Survey! Know the 2012 Life Safety and Health Care Facility Codes—Hilton Garden Inn, Bangor (Code: W17042)
- April 12, 2017—Don’t Get Burned on Your Next Survey! Know the 2012 Life Safety and Health Care Facility Codes—Hilton Garden Inn, Freeport (Code: W17043)
- April 27, 2017—Assisted Living Conference—Hilton Garden Inn, Auburn Riverwatch
- May 24, 2017—The Activity Professionals Workshop—Maple Hill Farm Inn & Conference Center, Hallowell (Code: W17052)
- June 1, 2017—Food, Nutrition & Dining: Critical Components for Successful Outcomes in Long Term Care—Maple Hill Farm Inn & Conference Center, Hallowell (Code: W17064)
- June 13, 14 & 15, 2017—Leadership Symposium—Point Lookout Resort, Northport
- October 3-5, 2017—Fall Health Care Conference & Expo—Samoset Resort, Rockport

WEBINARS:
- March 10, 2017 – What Owners & Administrators Need to Do About Occupancy and Mix (10am)

CERTIFICATE COURSES
- March 15, 2017—CRMA Recert Course—Maine Health Care Association, Augusta (Job Code: C17031)
- April 7, 12, 21, 28 & May 3, 2017—CRMA 40-Hour Course—Maine Health Care Association, Augusta (Code: C17051) (Snow Date: May 11)
- May 17, 2017—CRMA Recert Course—Maine Health Care Association, Augusta (Job Code: C17052)
- June 21, 2017—CRMA Recert Course—Maine Health Care Association, Augusta (Job Code: C17061)
- July 12, 2017—ServSafe Food Safety Program for Managers—Maine Health Care Association, Augusta (Job Code: S17071)

Click below to learn more about our new Gero Nurse Prep partnership.

Notice of Rulemaking

To view this week’s applicable adoptions please click here and refer to adopted rule number 2017-027, Community Support Services and Allowances for Community Support Services and number 2017-028, Allowances for Home and Community Based Services for Adults with Brain Injury. There are no applicable proposals this week.

Staff Contact:
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Upcoming MHCA committee meetings/other meetings of interest

**Regional Meetings**

**Region I DONs and RN Consultants** – The next meeting is TBA. Chair: Larry Strickland, Kennebunk Rehab, lstrickland@nathealthcare.com

**Region I Administrators** – The next meeting is TBA. Contact: Maureen Carland at mcarland@mainevets.org

**Region II Administrators & DONs** – The next meeting is at Heritage Rehab & Living Center in Winthrop on Friday, April 14th from 9-11 AM. Contact: Lori Pomeleow at 786-0691 X 102 or pomeleow@northcountryassociates.com

**Region II Social Workers** – Next meeting is TBA. Chair: Judi Rousseau-Gagnon, LSW at 777-4261

**Region III Social Workers** – Meetings are held the last Monday of every month from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Oak Grove, 27 Cool Street, in Waterville. Contact: Linda Woodside at Oak Grove Rehab & Living Center at 873-0721

**Other Meetings of Interest**

**Southern Maine Activity Professionals Committee** – The next meeting the Southern Maine Activity Professionals Committee is TBA. If you wish to join the group or RSVP to the meeting please contact Jessica Leclerc, St. Andre JLeclerc@standre.org

**American College of Health Care Administrators (ACHCA)** – The next meeting is scheduled for March 3rd at Waltz Pharmacy in Brunswick. For more information, please contact Jeffrey Lacroix at lacroije@cmhc.org

**Culture Change Coalition/LANE** – The next Southern meeting is March 28th at Gorham House from 10-2. If you are interested in joining this group or wish to RSVP to the meeting, please Contact: Tim Knight Email: tknight@midcoasthealth.com

**Food Service Professionals Committee** – The next meeting is Friday, March 3, at 11:00 a.m. at the Barron Center, 1145 Brighton Avenue, Portland. The Committee will be working on the food service leadership program, plus time for networking/other business. Lunch will be served. Please RSVP by February 27. Co-Chairs: Mary McCarthy, Barron Center at 774-2623 or MM@portlandmaine.gov and Kandi Lilley, North Country Associates at 786-3554 or kward@northcountryassociates.com.

**MHCA NH Quality Initiative committee**— The next meeting is TBA. Please contact Bonny Small at bsmall@mehca.org

**MHCA Assisted Living committee**— The next meeting is TBA. Please contact Bonny Small at bsmall@mehca.org

**LTC Social Work Council** – Next meeting is March 3rd at Maine Health Care Association. Chair: Janis Rodgers, Gorham House, Gorham (Tel: 222-8959).

**Maine Partnership to Improve Dementia Care in Nursing Homes** – The next meeting is TBA. If you are interested in joining this group or wish to RSVP to the meeting Please contact Nadine Grosso at ngrosso@mehca.org

**MDS Coordinator Support Group** - The next meeting is at Maine Veterans Home in Scarborough on March 15th from 9A – 11A. Contact: Penny Hahn 289-3447 phahn@mainevets.org

**Nursing Home Administrator’s Licensing Board** — Meetings are open to members of the public for observation but not for participation. If you plan to attend or have any questions concerning the agenda, please call 624-8623. Meetings are scheduled for March 22, May 24, July 26, September 27, and November 22. All meetings are held at 9am at the Office of Licensing & Registration: 76 Northern Avenue, Gardiner, ME.

**Staff Contact:**
Ashley Ellis
Staff Support Specialist

For sponsorship opportunities, please contact Dianne at the Association office.