

4-24-24 Weekly Clinical Update

On Thursday we received an email with some very important information: “The Quality and Regulatory Affairs team often gets requests for resources to assist with regulatory compliance and while we have many current resources available to help members with a variety of topics, they are not all located in one place.

For this reason, we have put together a [consolidated list](#) of all currently available regulatory resources. These include various tip sheets, guides, webinars, online education courses and more! Resources are organized according to the regulations outlined in Appendix PP of the State Operations Manual and links are embedded in this document for ease of navigation.

We will update this document quarterly as new resources are added and hope you find this guide beneficial. Questions about the guide or suggestions for new resources may be sent to regulatory@ahca.org.”

I have had a chance to take a peek at the “consolidated list” and it is very, very comprehensive. If you have a challenging situation this should be a great resource for you.

The agenda for the meeting included:

- NHSN Recommendations & CDC Responses:
 - AHCA’s recommendations included:
 - Creating a more streamlined process to obtain NHSN access
 - Simplifying education for NHSN reporting
 - Improving user support for NHSN Help Desk (they explained that there are no funds for a human person to provide assistance on the Help Desk)
 - Simplifying the process for facility closure (they will try to work closer with CMS on closures)
- NATCEP Waiver Options for Providers
 - Understand that the 2 year ban on CNA training is a statutory requirement and will require a change in the actual law and is not easily changed
 - In 2021 21% of facilities have a ban on training; in 2023 27% of facilities have a ban & so far this year, 25% of facility have been issued a 2-year ban
 - In addition, not many waivers are being granted
 - In 2023 17 waivers were granted & 2 in this current fiscal year
 - Waiver options include:
 - A waiver for training by another educational provider & training occurs in the facility but not by the facility & the facility has nothing to do with the program other than housing the program
 - Rural waiver if no other training programs are in the area: the facility may meet the CMP threshold but no quality of care tags
- Proposed CMP changes in 2024 SNF PPS Proposed rule

- Important to know that because there was no date in the proposed changes it would start the date the rule is published
- Some facilities are receiving CMP letters 1-2 years after the 2567 is issued which is NOT according to the regulatory intent
- State Regulatory Committees should consider becoming involved in making comments especially about the look-back period as with the changes, CMS has the right to go back into the facility and the look-back period could go back for an extended period of time...not just since the last standard survey
- Workforce and Other Updates
 - The Minimum Staffing bill has left the OMB (Office of Management & Budget) and is expected to be released “any day now”
 - Immigration and Refugees:
 - [Immigration to address the caregiving shortfall](#) – Brookings Article
 - [ICYMI: Brookings Institution: Immigration Would Help Address Caregiver Shortage](#) – AHCA/NCAL statement around Brookings piece
 - [Kaine Introduces Legislation to Address Health Care Workforce Shortages | 2024-04-09 \(senate.gov\)](#)
Would help with nursing home staffing barriers, licensing & credentialing process
 - i. [USCIS Increases Automatic Extension of Certain Employment Authorization Documents to Improve Access to Work Permits](#)
Increases from up to 100 days to up to 500 days to get paper work in
 - i. [Refugee Workforce Partnerships in Long Term Care](#) – May 9th at 2pm ET webinar offering
AHCA Webinar upcoming; refugee partnerships at state level; International Rescue Committee
- New Resources to Highlight
 - [Past Noncompliance: How to Build Your Case](#) (webinar)
 - [Survey Tip- Preparing Before your Survey](#)

As you can see, AHCA is a wonderful support, and as a member of the State Association, every facility is a member of AHCA.