

5-28-25 Weekly Clinical Update

Taking a break from the documentation series, this update will include very important information about last week's AHCA State Affiliate Meeting.

There is ongoing information about the Quality Award Program. The AHCA awards program has been proven to be a major advantage for facilities to increase the quality of care provided by individual facilities, which is the design of the program. Important dates include:

- 2025 Program Notification Dates:
 - Bronze Notifications: May 29,
 - 2025 Silver Notifications: June 26, 2025
 - Gold Notifications: August 8, 2025
- 2026 Program Dates: (All deadlines close at 8pm EST)
 - Application Packets and Criteria Series Launch: July 2025
 - Quality Award Portal and Intent to Apply Launch: August 2025
 - [KHCA/KCAL Gold Quality Award Workshop: August 7, 2025](#)
 - [KHCA/KCAL Silver Quality Award Workshop: August 8, 2025](#)
 - [KHCA/KCAL Bronze Quality Award Workshop: November 4, 2025](#)
 - Intent to Apply Deadline: November 13, 2025
 - Application Deadline: January 22, 2026

HICPAC is finally doing a review of regulations that truly impacted the quality of life of residents during outbreaks. There was also discussion about regulatory and other regulatory-associated changes in the works: "HICPAC was a federal advisory committee appointed to provide advice and guidance to DHHS and CDC regarding the practice of infection control and strategies for surveillance, prevention, and control of healthcare-associated infections, antimicrobial resistance and related events in United States healthcare settings." HICPAC's agenda includes:

- Updating the 2007 Guidelines for Isolation Precautions .
 - COVID-19 infection control guidance*, including for healthcare personnel (return to work guidance).
 - Mask use for airborne pathogens.
 - Source control situations.

• **Considerations for Use of Enhanced Barrier Precautions in Skilled Nursing Facilities**

*Risk period for transmission of SARS-CoV-2 and seasonal influenza: a rapid review – PMC
[Risk period for transmission of SARS-CoV-2 and seasonal influenza: a rapid review - PMC](#)

The profession is being offered a voice in several areas. There was also discussion of recent RFI's from Executive Order 14192 including:

- White House: Unlawful Regs – submitted April 16
- Office of Management and Budget (OMB): Deregulation [2025-06316.pdf](#) May 12-submitted
- CMS: Unleashing Prosperity Through Deregulation of the Medicare Program– due June 10 [Medicare Regulatory Relief | CMS](#)
- CMS: FY 2026 SNF PPS Proposed Rule measures – due June 10 , RFI for SNF QRP/quality [2025-06348.pdf](#)
- HHS/ASTP/ONC: Health Technology Ecosystem– due June 16 [2025-08701.pdf](#)
- HHS: Ensuring Lawful Regulation and Unleashing Innovation to Make America Healthy Again– due July 14 [2025-08384.pdf](#)

The OMB (Office of Management & Budget) also has an RFI on Deregulation including the following issues:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| • NHSN Reporting | • HIPAA/Cybersecurity Rule |
| • PBJ | • Medicaid Access Rule |
| • SNF QRP | • HCBS Settings Rule |
| • Facility Assessment | • ID/DD Survey Frequency |
| • NATCEP Instructor | |
| • Food & Nutrition Director | |
| • CMP Enforcement Expansion | |
| • CMP Policy Improvements | |
| • IDR/IIDR | |

Finally, AHCA has updated and added regulatory resources such as:

An updated Schizophrenia Diagnosis Audit tool

- The following updated materials in the Antipsychotic Medication Management Toolkit available in ahcancaLED:

- Antipsychotic Medication Management Toolkit (document)
- Antipsychotic Medication Management Fact Sheet – Adequate Indications for Us

§482.25 Quality of Care

- [Bundling ESRD Medications](#)

§483.60 Food and Nutrition Services

Webinar: [Responsible Food Procurement for Changing Times](#)

§483.80 Infection Control

- [Hot Topic Brief: Managing Bed Bugs and Head Lice in Healthcare Settings](#)
- [Hot Topic Brief: Measles Risk in the Long-Term Care Setting](#)
- [Hot Topic Brief: Understanding and Utilizing AntibioGrams](#)

There was significant discussion and a reminder that QSO-25-14-NH was implemented on April 28, 2025. AHCA is providing F-tag Action Tools that are now available on the AHCA website including:

F-tag Action Tools Now Available

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • F627/F628- Transfer and Discharge • F605-Right to be Free from Chemical Restraints • F880-Infection, Prevention, & Control • F658-Services Provided Meet Professional Standards | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • F841-Medical Director • F697-Pain Management • F637/F677 Significant Change and ADLs • F641, Accuracy of Assessment • F851-Payroll Based Journal • F918, Bathing and Toileting Facilities |
|--|--|

Additionally, an AHCA webinar is scheduled for 6-17-25 at 1pm CDT: Utilizing IDDSI's Tools to Avoid Texture Modified Food Mistakes and Citations which can be accessed at [AHCANcaLED](#).

Some skilled nursing facilities (SNFs) have implemented a specific diet standard, titled the International Dysphagia Diet Standardisation Initiative (IDDSI). The IDDSI Framework Documents provide guidelines to produce safer food and drinks for residents who benefit from a texture modified diet. Implementation of IDDSI requires coordinated teamwork to align efforts with facility goals, including improving safety.

This free webinar covers how to approach your IDDSI plan through:

- Understanding why incorporating this change is important.
- How preparing foods that meet IDDSI definitions can best accommodate your residents' needs.
- Why and how QAPI provides the structure for full implementation.

It's so important for all members to use the resources that AHCA provides. And if there is something you need or you have a question, the AHCA staff is there to help and answer your questions. Not enough providers use this valuable resource!