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Newsletter

January 31, 2011
Newsfront

Newsletter

Governor Deal Addresses GHCA Membership



The keynote speaker for the GHCA Mid-Year Convention opening ceremony was newly inaugurated Governor Nathan Deal. The Governor greeted and spoke to the approximately 450 members in the audience on January 19, 2011 for the better part of half an hour.

During his remarks, he outlined the State's revenue shortfall issue and his priorities for the upcoming session. It was clear during his remarks he has a strong knowledge base of the health issues facing Georgia and a sincere passion to help those that cannot help themselves. GHCA looks forward to working with Governor Deal as he shapes his vision for Georgia in the coming months.

AHCA/NCAL Unveiled State of Long-Term and Post-Acute Care in Advance of the State of the Union Speech

The American Health Care Association (AHCA) and the National Center for Assisted Living (NCAL) released summaries of five selected issues in advance of the President's State of Union Speech on Tuesday, January 25th. The five topics are:

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Up-coming events

[2011 Membership Directory 2012 Advertising Contract](#)

10-01-2011 12:00 PM

Category: [Advertising](#)

[GSNHAD Annual Meeting Activity Directors - Changes in Attitude – Changes in Latitude](#)

10-02-2011 03:00 PM

Category: [Conventions & Meetings](#)

[Get to Know Me, the 2012 SNF PPS Final Rule: PPS Changes and Strategy for Success in 2012](#)

10-04-2011 10:00 AM

Category: [Webinars](#) | [Nursing](#) | [Administrators](#)

[Get to Know Me, the 2012 SNF PPS Final Rule: PPS Changes and Strategy for Success in 2012](#)

10-04-2011 01:30 PM

Category: [Webinars](#) | [Nursing](#) | [Administrators](#)

- The State of Quality
- The State of Post-Acute Care
- The State of the Long-Term Care Workforce
- The State of Assisted Living
- The State of Reimbursement

You can access the summaries at <http://www.ahcancal.org/Pages/Default.aspx>

Members were encouraged to use a variety of social media, including Twitter, Facebook and YouTube, to generate comments and buzz about the topics in advance of the President's State of the Union Speech. The so-called "one pagers" – which are actually either one, two or three pages long – are very effective summaries of our profession and the challenges we face.

Medicaid: Moving into the Future

10-07-2011 09:00 AM

Category: [Education](#) | [Administrators](#)

[GHCA 2011 Fall Council Meetings - Northwest \(20111010b\)](#)

10-10-2011 09:00 AM

Category: [Conventions & Meetings](#) | [Emergency Preparedness](#) | [Social Workers](#) | [Nursing](#) | [Administrators](#) | [Activities Directors](#)



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2011 National Nursing Home Week Theme and Dates Announced

The American Health Care Association (AHCA) announced its theme for the 2011 National Nursing Home Week (NNHW) observance: Fulfilling the Promise. National Nursing Home Week, sponsored by AHCA, will be celebrated in nursing and rehabilitation facilities nationwide, beginning on Sunday, May 8 (Mother's Day), and continuing through Saturday, May 14.

This year's theme was selected to honor those who are "Fulfilling the Promise" by serving others, thus adding value to life and helping to overcome many of the infirmities of age and disability. AHCA will produce a publication that is full of ideas and products for the week. The materials will be available online – we'll let you know as soon as they are posted.

These events will be posted on our website, and on our Facebook page – and to share at Convention. So make sure we're at your event and your celebrations are seen!

Event Categories

- [Conventions & Meetings](#)
- [Education](#)
- [External Webinars](#)
- [Golf Tournament](#)
- [Advertising](#)

Social Networking



New 1099 Mandate Provision Two Steps Closer to Repeal

In his State of the Union Address on January 25, 2011, President Barack Obama, when talking about the health care reform bill, noted that there are areas where the bill can be improved, and he welcomed suggestions. He then specifically noted that he and the Congress need to work together to repeal the anti-business provision in the bill that requires much unnecessary paperwork. He was



No Iframes

referring to the 1099 mandate. Earlier in the day, Senators Mike Johanns (R-NE) and Joe Manchin (D-WV) held a news conference call to introduce legislation that would repeal the 1099 mandate included in the health care reform bill.

The Senators currently have 29 co-sponsors, including 4 Democrats, for the Small Business Paperwork Reduction Act. The bill eliminates Section 9006 of the new health care law requiring all businesses to file 1099 tax forms for business transactions totaling \$600 or more in a year. The Senate bill follows a recent effort in the House of Representatives by Representative Dan Lungren (R-CA), who introduced his version of repeal, the Small Business Paperwork Mandate Elimination Act, earlier in this Congress

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Quick Links

- ▶ [2011 GHCA Annual Summer Convention Certificate of Attendance](#)
- ▶ [Choosing a Nursing Home](#)
- ▶ [Search for a Nursing Home](#)
- ▶ [Links of Interest](#)
- ▶ [Member Login](#)
- ▶ [Your Stories](#)
- ▶ [Sitemap](#)

AHCA/NCAL Quality Awards – Next Steps

The deadline for the 2011 AHCA/NCAL Intent to Apply for Quality Awards has now passed, and so the real work continues full steam ahead for those working on their Quality Award applications. First, a reminder regarding application and payment deadlines:

- Bronze Application & Payment: February 28, 2011
- Silver Application & Payment: March 15, 2011
- Gold Application & Payment: March 15, 2011

Additional resources are available on the [AHCA/NCAL Quality Award website](#). Good luck to all our Georgia Health Care Association members that are applying for 2011 Quality Awards!

Legislative

The general assembly convened the second Monday of January with a few new changes led by newly elected governor Nathan Deal. All sessions have their challenges but with a projected \$2 billion dollar shortfall this one proves to be exceptionally tough. The governor has released his budget and it includes a 1% cut in Medicaid reimbursement rates excluding hospitals and home and community based services. The government affairs team is meeting with budget writers to propose solutions for our portion of the cut.

January has been a relatively slow month due to the snow and ice storm and we expect it to pick

up in the coming month.

We would like to encourage each of you to stay involved in this process as your help has proven very productive in past sessions. For any questions regarding this please call [Jason Broce](#) at 678-289-6555.

Quality Corner

Alzheimer's and Dementia Training Available

This is excellent in-service material. The National Council of Certified Dementia Practitioners – Alzheimer's and Dementia staff has developed an educational Tool Kit which is free and available at www.nccdp.org. The Tool Kit includes many free Power Point in-services for download up until March 1, 2011. Each in-service is designed to be taught in 30 minute segments, to health care professionals and front line staff.

Thanks to Michelle Nelson and Sharon Dougherty, Department of Community Health, Health Facility Regulation Division for sharing this information.

Skin/Wound Care Educational Material Available

This Skin/Wound Care Course was developed through the GHCA C.N.A. Career Ladder Program and with the assistance of the Georgia Health Care Association Education and Research Foundation, a set of DVDs containing this course has been made available to each GHCA member facility. This set includes six (6) DVDs covering 21 hours of in-service material.

A special thanks to each of the following individuals who gave of their time and expertise to provide this type education to our Certified Nursing Assistants.

Angie Doan, RN, BSN, CWOC, ADHS – Heritage Healthcare of Macon

- a. Introduction
- b. Basic Anatomy and Physiology of the Skin
- c. Stages of Ulcers

- d. Care Plans
- e. Wounds: Treatment and Documentation Part I, Part II, and Part III
- f. Measuring Wounds
- g. Observing and Documenting
- h. Wound Care Products

Lynne Woods, Wound Care Consultant, RN, BSN, CWOCN – Ethica Health and Retirement Communities

- a. Diseases Associated with Pressure Ulcers
- b. Types of Ulcers
- c. Patients at Risk
- d. Identifying, Reporting, and Documenting Abnormalities
- e. Pressure Points
- f. Interventions: Pressure, Shearing, and Friction
- g. Regulations: Issues Unique to Skin and Wound Care

Susan B. Prather, RN, BC CHPN, MA, Clinical Nurse Specialist – UHS Pruitt Corporation

- a. Pain Management

Torris Roberts, LPN, SIC, Wound Care Nurse – UHS Pruitt Corporation

- a. Clean Dressing Change Technique

Marili Shoop, PT, BS, MBA, Director of Rehab – Integra Rehabilitation

- a. Interventions: Positioning
- b. Orthotic Devices to Prevent and/or Treat Contractures

Angel Sutton, RN, BSN, WOCN, Wound Care Nurse Consultant – Ethica Health and Retirement Communities

- a. Incontinence Management
- b. Positioning Devices and Heel Protectors

Jack D. McDonald, BA, Business Administration, President, J.D.M. Medical, Inc.

- a. Interventions: Use of Pressure Reducing Devices

Johnnie Sheats, RN, BSN, NHA, Executive Director of Professional Development – UHS Pruitt Corporation

a. Effective Communication

We suggest your staff develop a check off sheet, following each topic, for each individual completing the course. When this has been accomplished, the individual will receive a certificate of completion from the Georgia Health Care Association.

The material covered in this course will present the caregiver with the knowledge to meet the needs of their patients, providing quality care and improving their quality of life.

Georgia Quality Awards Program

The Georgia Quality at www.ghca.info/201101newsfront. Deadline for completion is April 30, 2011. Please read and follow the instructions carefully as there have been changes made in the process. Omitting items requested could mean disqualification.

If you have questions, please contact Joanne at 678-289-6555 or jgrubbs@ghca.info.

Reimbursement Corner

2011 Medicare Part B Fee Schedules – Effective January 1, 2011 through December 31, 2011

The January 1, 2011 [therapy fees for each CPT/HCPSCS](#) in each geographic area are provided in Excel format. This document has four worksheets containing the following information:

1. The 2011 Medicare Part B Fee Schedule (Part B Fees) for Outpatient Rehabilitation for each Carrier and Locality.
2. The 2011 Medicare Part B Fee Schedule (Part B Fees) for those “Always Therapy” services subject to the Multiple Procedure Payment Reduction (MPPR) Policy for Outpatient Rehabilitation for each Carrier and Locality.

3. The 2011 Relative Value Units (RVUs) for each Outpatient Rehabilitation Therapy Code.

4. The 2011 Geographic Practice Cost Indices (GPCI) by Medicare Carrier and Locality.

Please note that the fees reflect all changes included in the 2011 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule Final Rule published in the Federal Register on November 29, 2010 and corrections expected to be published in the Federal Register on January 11, 2011 (the regulation, CMS-1503-CN2, was posted on December 30, 2010). The fee schedule also reflects legislation signed by the President (the Physician Payment and Therapy Relief Act of 2010 and the Medicare and Medicaid Extenders Act of 2010) which provides for revisions to the multiple procedure payment reduction percentage and for a zero percent (0%) update to the 2011 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule through December 31, 2011. A notice will be published in the Federal Register regarding these changes..

The final rule re-established HCPCS 95992, Canalith repositioning proc, as an active code for Part B therapy services. (This code was originally established as a bundled code in CY 2009 and was not recognized for Medicare payment in CY 2010.)

Most importantly, CMS is applying a new Multiple Procedure Payment Reduction (MPPR) to the Practice Expense (PE) component of payment of select therapy services paid under the Medicare Physician Fee Schedules (MPFS). This reduction will apply when more than one unit or procedure is provided to the same patient (resident) on the same day across therapy disciplines. The reduction for SNFs will be 25% of the PE. The MPPR applies to multiple units and multiple procedures.

Full payment is made for the unit or procedure with the highest PE payment. For subsequent units and procedures furnished to the same patient on the same day, full payment is made for work and malpractice components and 75% for the PE component. This will apply to both bill types 22X and 23X.

The reduction applies to the HCPCS codes contained on the list of "always therapy" services that are paid under the MPFS, regardless of the type of provider or supplier furnishing services. The list is found in the appendix A to CR826OTN. References include MLN Matters Article #MM7050 Revised. Related Change Request (CR) # 7050. Related Transmittal # R826OTN. These have an effective date of January 2, 2011; therefore, it will impact your January 2011 billing.

An overview of the Physician Fee Schedule Payment Policies may be found at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/PhysicianFeeSched/> and an overview of skilled nursing facility consolidated billing and annual updates can be found at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/SNFCConsolidatedBilling/>

Thank you to Mr. Tony Marshall of the Florida Health Care Association for providing these calculations.

SNF Billing Requirements Change on February 1 to Include PASRR information

GMCF recently conducted conference calls in order to support the implementation of the new PASRR information required to be included on Medicaid billing for SNFs as of February 1, 2011. Please click the following link for frequently asked questions and answers: www.ghca.info/201101newsfront

Reminder About New Medicare Timely Payment Requirement

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is reminding Medicare Fee-For-Service physicians, providers and suppliers submitting claims to Medicare for payment that as a result of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA), effective immediately, all claims for services furnished on or after Jan 1, 2010, must be filed with your Medicare contractor no later than one calendar year (12 months) from the date of service – or Medicare will deny them. In general, the start date for determining the 1-year timely filing period is the date of service or “From” date on the claim. For institutional claims that include span dates of service (i.e., a “From” and “Through” date on the claim), the “Through” date on the claim is used for determining the date of service for claims filing timeliness. For claims submitted by physicians and other suppliers that include span dates of service, the line item “From” date is used for determining the date of service for claims filing timeliness.

For additional information about the new maximum period for claims submission filing dates, contact your Medicare contractor, or review the MLN Matters articles listed below related to this subject:

- MM6960 – “Systems Changes Necessary to Implement the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) Section 6404 - Maximum Period for Submission of Medicare Claims Reduced to Not More Than 12 Months” – <http://www.cms.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM6960.pdf> on the CMS website.
 - MM7080 – “Timely Claims Filing: Additional Instructions” – <http://www.cms.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM7080.pdf> on the CMS website.
-

Emergency Preparedness

Winter Weather FAQ's

What is hypothermia?

When exposed to cold temperatures, your body begins to lose heat faster than it can be produced. The result is hypothermia, or abnormally low body temperature. Body temperature that is too low affects the brain, making the victim unable to think clearly or move well. This makes hypothermia particularly dangerous because a person may not know it is happening and won't be able to do anything about it.

Hypothermia occurs most commonly at very cold environmental temperatures, but can occur even at cool temperatures (above 40°F) if a person becomes chilled from rain, sweat, or submersion in cold water.

Who is most at risk for hypothermia?

Victims of hypothermia are most often:

- elderly people with inadequate food, clothing, or heating
- babies sleeping in cold bedrooms
- children left unattended
- adults under the influence of alcohol
- mentally ill individuals
- people who remain outdoors for long periods—the homeless, hikers, hunters, etc.

What are the warning signs for hypothermia?

Adults:

- shivering/exhaustion
- confusion/fumbling hands
- memory loss/slurred speech
- drowsiness

Infants:

- bright red, cold skin

- very low energy

What should I do if I see someone with warning signs of hypothermia?

If you notice signs of hypothermia, take the person's temperature. If it is below 95°, the situation is an emergency—get medical attention immediately.

If medical care is not available, begin warming the person, as follows:

Get the victim into a warm room or shelter.

If the victim has on any wet clothing, remove it.

Warm the center of the body first—chest, neck, head, and groin—using an electric blanket, if available. Or use skin-to-skin contact under loose, dry layers of blankets, clothing, towels, or sheets.

Warm beverages can help increase the body temperature, but do NOT give alcoholic beverages. Do not try to give beverages to an unconscious person.

After body temperature has increased, keep the person dry and wrapped in a warm blanket, including the head and neck.

Get medical attention as soon as possible.

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention <http://emergency.cdc.gov/disasters/winter/faq.asp>

Training Staff to Help Distressed Nursing Home Residents Cope and Recover after Traumatic Events

To meet the growing demand for training in psychological first aid, the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD) is partnering with the Georgia Department of Community Health, Division of Emergency Preparedness and Response to offer a series of one-day classes in Psychological First Aid for Nursing Homes Train-the-Trainer. This training is free of charge and is paid for with funding from Georgia's Health Community Preparedness Program. Training staff from nursing homes throughout Georgia are invited to take part in one of four train-the-trainer classes that will be held at a variety of locations throughout the

state, so be on the look-out for training announcements about these classes.

For more information, contact Jeannette David, DBHDD Disaster Mental Health Services Coordinator, at 404-657-2354 or email her at jedavid@dbhdd.ga.gov.

Mutual Aid Compact

During the recent GHCA council meetings, your Council Coordinators introduced the Mutual Aid Compact. This agreement mirrors the agreement that is currently implemented among the GA hospitals. It says that the center agrees to assist other centers (within reason and if they are able) during an emergency situation. This document is NOT a contract, but only a disaster agreement. In addition, this agreement has been reviewed and cleared by the GHCA legal team. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact your Council Coordinator or myself. Thank you.

Council Coordinators link: http://www.ghca.info/images/stories/preparedness/cc_contact_list.pdf

Mutual Aid Compact link: http://www.ghca.info/images/stories/preparedness/mutual_aid_compact_nursinghome_revised.pdf

For additional information concerning Emergency Preparedness and Response, please contact Tiffany Hanshaw at thanshaw@ghca.info.

Affiliate Updates

GSNHSW

The Social Worker Spring Training will be held March 28 – 31. On April 1, there will be a full day of training on “Where Social Workers Now Stand on MDS 3.0” by Sandy Boland and Cynthia Stice. Information on this is now on our website.

GSNHAD

The Activity Director’s State-Approved 36-Hour Course will be held April 10 – 15, 2011 at the Fred A. Watson Training Center. Information can be found at www.ghca.info.

2011 GHCA Annual Summer Convention June 12-16, 2011

THE RITZ CARLTON AMELIA ISLAND

4750 AMELIA ISLAND PARKWAY

AMELIA ISLAND, FLORIDA 32034

PHONE: 904-277-1100

<http://www.ritzcarlton.com/en/Properties/AmeliaIsland/Default.htm>

Room Reservations

GHCA reserved a block of rooms for your convenience at 259.00 per night. The online reservation code is GANGANA. Please remember that a deposit equal to two (2) night's room and tax is required in order to confirm your reservations. This deposit is due at the same time your reservation is made. Your deposit is refundable if reservations are cancelled prior to 7 days before arrival. All deposit money is non-refundable if a cancellation is made within 7 days of the arrival date, or if you check out earlier than your scheduled departure date. Check-in time is after 3:00 p. m. and checkout time is before 12:00 noon. If arriving early, sleeping rooms may not be available. Luggage may be stored.

PARKING AT THE RITZ CARLTON:

Valet parking only \$10 per vehicle per night.

Alternate Locations

Summer Beach Condos – <http://www.summerbeach.com/rentals/index.html> for reservations, located right next door to the Ritz-Carlton, about a 5 minute walk.

Amelia Island Plantation Inn – This 4 star Florida resort is located on 3.5 miles of private beach, approximately 3 miles from the Ritz Carlton. No charge for self parking. 6800 First Coast Highway, Amelia Island, FL 32034 (904) 261-6161.

Hampton Inn & Suites Amelia Island - Located about 3 miles from the Ritz-Carlton in the Historic Amelia Island Harbor, about 2 miles from the beach. No charge for self parking. 19 South Second Street, Fernandina Beach, FL (904) 491-4911.

A NEW Alternative: Residence Inn Amelia Island - Florida (FL) Hotel New Hotel, walking distance to beach, approximately 3 miles from Ritz Carlton Amelia. Room rates presently starting at \$118 a night. 2301 Sadler Road, Fernandina Beach, Florida 32034

Reservations: 1-866-245-6099 Contact: 904-277-2440 Fax: 904-277-2449

Education Updates

Critical Components of Infection Control Programs in Long Term Care Settings Registration is Now Open

February 9-10.....Stockbridge

March 9-10.....Gainesville

April 13-14..... Tifton

Presented in partnership with:

Georgia Medical Care Foundation (GMCF)

Georgia Health Care Association (GHCA)

Georgia Department of Community Health / Division of Public Health

Georgia Healthcare Facilities Regulation Division (HFRD)

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

Georgia Infection Prevention Network (GIPN)

Cost is \$70 for the Two Day Education Sessions to cover continental breakfast, lunch and afternoon snacks for both days. Please go to www.ghca.info to obtain a PDF copy of this brochure.

MDS 3.0 Two Day Basic Training with Implications for RUGs IV and Medicare 101 RUGS IV presented by Joy Roberts

February 22-23, 2011 MDS 3.0: at GHCA in Stockbridge

February 24, 2011 Medicare 101 RUGS IV at GHCA in Stockbridge

March 29-30, 2011 MDS 3.0 at the Tifton UGA Conference Center in Tifton GA

March 31, 2011 Medicare 101 RUGS IV at Tifton UGA Conference Center

April Dates and Location to be announced soon.

This program has a section just for activities and social services that you may register for instead of the full two days. It includes lunch on the first day. If you register for the full program, GHCA will serve you lunch both days. Look for registration in your mailbox and on the GHCA website under the Calendar of Events coming soon.

The Ethics of Leadership: The Nurtured Heart Approach presented by Nancy Kriseman February 25, 2011

This program will be held at the Fred A. Watson Education Center at GHCA. Besides being an excellent program for earning Ethics credit hours, this program offer a new perspective on

leadership philosophy in long term care for managers and supervisors. Look for registration in your mailbox and on the GHCA website under the Calendar of Events coming soon.

Pre Licensure Review Program presented by Joe Townsend at the Fred A Watson Education Center at GHCA in Stockbridge March 1-2, 2011

Joe Townsend will present this course to prepare future administrators to take the NAB Exam. This course is also a good refresher for those who need a refresher on the basics of nursing home administration. Look for registration in your mailbox and on the GHCA website under the Calendar of Events coming soon.

Preceptor Seminar: How to Conduct and Structure an Effective AIT Program March 3 presented by Joe Townsend with Special Guest Barbara Baxter, President, Georgia State Board of Nursing Home Administrators at the Fred A Watson Education Center at GHCA in Stockbridge March 3

This program will help experienced nursing home administrators learn how to follow the correct steps to become preceptors in Georgia and how to develop an effective AIT program. Look for registration in your mailbox and on the GHCA website under the Calendar of Events coming soon.

Marketing and Public Relations 101 for Long Term Care presented by Dan Curran

This program is tentatively scheduled at the Fred A Watson Education Center at GHCA. It is an excellent basic course for long term care professionals. Look for registration in your mailbox and on the GHCA website under the Calendar of Events coming soon.

Stay on Top of Medicare: Beyond the Basics Presented by Dr. Mary Marshall

At the Fred A. Watson Education Center at GHCA April 20-21. March dates in Macon to be announced soon. Look for registration in your mailbox and on the GHCA website under the Calendar of Events coming soon.

GHCA Newsfront Calendar of Events January 31, 2011

February 2011

- 9 – 10 Critical Components of Infection Control, Fred A. Watson Training Center, Stockbridge
- 15 - 16 SOURCE New Case Manager Training, Fred A. Watson Training Center, Stockbridge
- 22 – 23 MDS 3.0, Fred A. Watson Training Center, Stockbridge
- 24 Medicare 101 RUGS IV, Fred A. Watson Training Center, Stockbridge
- 25 The Ethics of Leadership, Fred A. Watson Training Center, Stockbridge

March, 2011

- 1 – 2 Pre-Licensure Review, Joe Townsend, Fred A. Watson Training Center, Stockbridge
- 3 Preceptor Seminar, Joe Townsend, Fred A. Watson Training Center, Stockbridge
- 8 – 10 MDS 3.0 Certificate Class, Fred A. Watson Training Center, Stockbridge
- 9 – 10 Critical Components of Infection Control, Hilton Garden Inn, Gainesville, GA
- 15 GHCA Board & Committee Day, Fred A. Watson Training Center, Stockbridge
- 16 – 17 MDS 3.0 Certificate Class, Fred A. Watson Training Center, Stockbridge
- 23 – 25 Survival Course for the Long Term Care Nurse, Fred A. Watson Training Center, Stockbridge
- 28 – 4/1 Social Worker Spring Training, Fred A. Watson Training Center, Stockbridge
- 29 – 30 MDS 3.0, Tifton UGA Conference Center, Tifton
- 31 Medicare 101 RUGS IV, Tifton UGA Conference Center, Tifton

April, 2011

- 10 - 15 Activity Director's 36-Hour State-Approved Course, Fred A. Watson Training Center
- 13 – 14 Critical Components of Infection Control, UGA Tifton Campus Conference Center, Tifton
- 16 Ms. Georgia Nursing Home Pageant, Evergreen at Stone Mountain
- 20 – 21 Medicare: Beyond the Basics, Mary Marshall, Fred A. Watson Training Center

May, 2011

- 8 – 14 National Nursing Home Week
- 13 GANLTC Mid-Year Meeting, Fred A. Watson Training Center, Stockbridge
- 17 GHCA Board & Committee Day, Fred A. Watson Training Center, Stockbridge

June, 2011

- 12 GHCA Board, Ritz Carlton Amelia Island, Florida
- 12 – 16 GHCA Annual Convention, Ritz Carlton Amelia Island, Florida

July, 2011

10 - 13 GSNHSW Annual Meeting, Evergreen Resort, Stone Mountain, GA

September, 2011

13 – 16 GANLTC Annual Meeting, Brasstown Valley Resort, Young Harris, GA

18 - 22 AHCA/NCAL Convention, Las Vegas, Nevada

October, 2011

2 - 5 GSNHAD Annual Meeting, Brasstown Valley Resort, Young Harris, GA

- * A light lunch will be served on Committee and Board Days.
- * The Committee Chair may schedule additional meetings.
- * All Board and Committee Meetings will be held at the Fred A. Watson Education Center except at the Convention sites in January and June.

You will need to be registered on the website to download any files. If you already have a login but have forgotten your login name or password you can reset it using the '[Forgot Login](#)' link under the Login button on each page on the website. Check either the 'Lost Username' or 'Lost Password' box; fill in the required information and click the 'Send Username/Password' link. The instructions to reset your password will be emailed to you.

If you haven't already registered, create your own login using the '[register](#)' link on any page on the website (under the Login button). After filling out the form you will be emailed a link to verify your email address; follow the link in that email and your account will be activated. If you don't receive the email with instructions please check your spam folder. If you continue to have problems please contact Tim Monkhouse at tmonkhouse@ghca.info.

Classified Ads

Activity Director Needed: Candidate would be responsible for planning and setting up structured activities for nursing home resident. Would be involved with volunteer groups and individuals. Charting and documentation skills are a must. Independent self-starter would be ideal.

Certified Activity Director would be a plus. Contact: Charles von Waldner at Azalealand Nursing home, 2040 Colonial Drive, Savannah, GA 31406, 912-354-2752 or fax 912-352-2038.

Golden Living Centers has some exciting opportunities! We are about careers not just jobs! We currently have these positions available:

Augusta: Part Time Registered Dietician Consultant.

Northside (Atlanta):

Licensed Nursing Home Administrator: Experienced Administrator with current GA license.

Director of Nursing: 5+ years experience with BSN – Management experience in LTC required.

Director of Clinical Education: Experience in LTC and GA RN license required.

Open House – Northside: 5470 Meridian Mark Road, Atlanta, GA 30343. On the spot interviews for RN and RN Management Positions. Sign on Bonuses. Interested candidates, please send resume to Rana Lepson, FAX: 479-478-2696, email: Rana.Lepson@Goldenliving.com, www.goldenlivingcenters.com

EOE M/F/D/V Drug-free workplace.

Long Term Care Supervisor: Whenever there's a challenge, you take it on. Whenever you can best your own performance, you're up for it. People with that kind of passion find not only what they need, but desire at Northeast Georgia Health System, just a short drive from Atlanta. We are currently seeking a full time Supervisor for our New Horizon's West Long Term Care Facility (3p – 11p, Monday through Friday with rotating weekends). If you are a Registered Nurse with a minimum of two years experience, a proven track record of success in a management or supervisory role and prior LTC or Med/Surg experience, we invite you to consider joining the NGHS team. Become a member of our highly respected and award-winning, professional healthcare team and you will receive a competitive salary and a lifestyle benefits package that

can't be beat. Find out more about where passion translates to power at www.NRHSCareers.com, or email your resume to Taylor.Day@NGHS.com. We value diversity and always hire equally and equitably.

RN Unit Manager/LPN-MDS Coordinator: East Lake Arbor: Long term care facility is looking for energetic and organized individuals who are passionate about providing quality care and must be currently licensed as a RN, LPN, or CAN certification. Must be able to pass pre-employment screening prior to interview including drug and criminal background. Dress Code: No jeans. If interested, please apply in person, Monday – Friday, 9a – 5 pm. EOE, East Lake Arbor, 304 5th Avenue, Decatur, GA 30030, or email resumes to: Quakerv@bellsouth.net, phone 404-373-6231, FAX 404-373-6813.

December 23, 2010 GHCA Newsfront

Newsletter

RUG-IV delay repealed and therapy caps exceptions extended

President Obama signed into law the [Medicare and Medicaid Extenders Act of 2010](#) (H.R. 4994), that contains the repeal of the RUG-IV implementation delay and an extension of the therapy exceptions process until December 31, 2011. AHCA/NCAL applauds both Congress and the President for addressing these critical issues before the end of the year to ensure that high quality patient care is not compromised.

Extension of exceptions process for Medicare therapy caps. Current law places annual per beneficiary payment limits for all outpatient therapy services provided by non-hospital providers. The Secretary was required to implement an exceptions process for cases in which the provision of additional therapy services was determined to be medically necessary. The provision would extend the therapy caps exception process through December 31, 2011.

Repeal of delay of RUG-IV. Under current law, implementation of Version four of the Resource Utilization Groups (“RUG IV”) for purposes of reimbursing skilled nursing facilities under Medicare is delayed until October 1, 2011. The provision would repeal the delay and allow RUG IV to go into effect on October 1, 2010, consistent with the final SNF payment regulation for FY2011.

AHCA NCAL has provided a [summary of the bill and the bill text](#) . Other issues of interest to post-

acute and long term care in the law include year-long extensions of the Medicaid Qualifying Individual Program and the Medicaid Transitional Medical Assistance Program until December 31, 2011.

From CMS: Important Information on the Timely Claims Filing Requirement

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) *would like to remind Medicare Fee-For-Service physicians, providers and suppliers submitting claims to Medicare for payment, as a result of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA), effective immediately, all claims for services furnished on or after Jan 1, 2010, must be filed with your Medicare contractor no later than one calendar year (12 months) from the date of service – or Medicare will deny them. If you have Medicare Fee-For-Service claims with service dates from Oct 1, 2009, through Dec 31, 2009, those claims MUST be filed by Dec 31, 2010, or Medicare will deny them. Claims with service dates from Jan 1, 2009, to Oct 1, 2009, keep their original Dec 31, 2010 deadline for filing.*

In general, the start date for determining the 1-year timely filing period is the date of service or “From” date on the claim. For institutional claims that include span dates of service (i.e., a “From” and “Through” date on the claim), the “Through” date on the claim is used for determining the date of service for claims filing timeliness. For claims submitted by physicians and other suppliers that include span dates of service, the line item “From” date is used for determining the date of service for claims filing timeliness.

For additional information about the new maximum period for claims *submission filing dates*, contact your Medicare contractor, or review the MLN Matters articles listed below related to this subject:

- MM6960 – “Systems Changes Necessary to Implement the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) Section 6404 - Maximum Period for Submission of Medicare Claims Reduced to Not More Than 12 Months” – <http://www.cms.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM6960.pdf> on the CMS website.
- MM7080 – “Timely Claims Filing: Additional Instructions” <http://www.cms.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM7080.pdf> on the CMS website.

You can also listen to a podcast on this subject by visiting http://www.cms.gov/CMSFeeds/02_listofpodcasts.asp on the CMS website.

Red Flag Rules amended by Congress

The Red Flag Program Clarification Act of 2010 (S. 3987) has now been passed by both the Senate and House and awaits signing by the President. It appears to relieve health care providers

from classification as creditors under the Red Flag Program and thus not subject to the mandated processes, procedures and enforcement connected with such classification. However, as explained in the AHCA memo, [Scope of Red Flags Rule Narrowed by Congress](#), further clarification from the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) pertaining to health care providers may be needed. AHCA had met with the FTC and adamantly opposed the classification of skilled nursing facilities (SNFs) as creditors due to the predominance of Medicare, Medicaid and insurance as the payers for the services. We will continue to oppose such classification.

As also explained in the attached memo, please note that the first part of the rule – the Address Discrepancy Rule - appears to remain intact and still applicable to SNFs. This only applies to SNFs if facilities use certain consumer reports - for example, in connection with employment.

AHCA will leave its [Identity Theft/ Red Flag Tool Kit](#) posted on the AHCA web site until complete clarification of the remaining issues has been received and provide to our members.

Quality Corner

Frequently Cited FTags

Review the following FTags related to transfer and discharge:

F202 - Documentation

F203 - Notice before transfer; Timing of the notice; Contents of the notice

F204 - Orientation for transfer or discharge

F205 - Notice of bed-hold policy and readmission; Bed-hold notice upon transfer.

F356- Nurse staffing information (data requirements; posting requirements; public access to posted nurse staffing data; facility data retention requirements).

The facility must post specified information on a daily basis at the beginning of each shift.

2011 Quality Award Program - Mandatory Intent to Apply

Applicants for the 2011 AHCA/NCAL National Quality Award program are required to submit a non-refundable \$75 Intent to Apply fee in order to be eligible to submit an application. Get started today with the Intent to Apply Process <https://webportal.ahca.org/Custom/>

[ITAQualityAwardContactSearch.aspx](https://webportal.ahca.org/Custom/ITAQualityAwardContactSearch.aspx) or visit the Applicant Resources http://www.ahcancal.org/quality_improvement/quality_award/Pages/default.aspx website to learn more about the National Quality Award program. The Intent to Apply submission deadline is January 18, 2011 at 8:00p.m.

EST. Applications submitted by facilities who do not submit the Intent to Apply fee will not be accepted. We strongly encourage applicants to submit their intent to apply fee early!

If you have any additional questions, please contact:

Courtney Krier, Manager, AHCA/NCAL National Quality Award Program
American Health Care Association, 1201 L Street, NW, Washington, DC 20005
Phone: (202) 898-2857 Fax: (202) 842-3860, E-mail: ckrier@ahca.org

State	2010 Applicants	2011 Intent to Apply (as of 12-17)
Alabama	26	7
Alaska	0	1
Arizona	15	5
Arkansas	7	2
California	60	41
Colorado	13	1
Connecticut	25	7
Delaware	0	0
Florida	100	24
Georgia	60	16
Hawaii	0	0
Idaho	6	5
Indiana	29	10
Iowa	16	10
Kansas	20	7
Kentucky	25	3
Louisiana	1	0

Maine	17	5
Maryland	8	3
Massachusetts	65	20
Michigan	57	19
Minnesota	36	7
Mississippi	14	3
Missouri	10	6
Nebraska	7	3
Nevada	5	4
New Hampshire	8	3
New Jersey	17	5
New Mexico	4	4
New York	10	2

Reimbursement Corner

President Signs Awaited For Bill

On December 17, 2010 President Obama signed into law the Medicare and [Medicaid Extenders Act of 2010 \(H.R. 4994\)](#), which contains the repeal of the RUG-IV implementation delay and an extension of the therapy exceptions process until December 31, 2011. We applaud both Congress and the President for addressing these critical issues before the end of the year to ensure that high quality patient care is not compromised.

MedPAC chairman's proposed recommendation: no SNF PPS market basket update

At the December 2nd public meeting, Medicare Payment Advisory Committee (MedPAC) staff

reviewed the adequacy of Medicare Part A payments to skilled nursing facilities (SNFs), and reported the Chairman's proposed recommendation for no market basket update for FY 2012.

Noting estimated 2009 SNF margins of 18.1 percent overall, the MedPAC Chairman raised the issue of whether MedPAC should examine and make recommendations on rebasing the SNF Medicare Part A prospective payment system (PPS) as they previously recommended for the home health PPS. A number of Commissioners appeared to be supportive of the no market basket recommendation and interested in exploring rebasing. Other Commissioners indicated that they might be open to the idea of doing more than the Chairman's proposed recommendation but that any changes should be done in the broader context of integration of payments (i.e. bundling).

In a [press release](#), AHCA asked MedPAC to recommend to the Congress a full market basket cost of living update for SNFs. AHCA believes that the update is necessary at this time to preserve access to quality care, protect good local health care jobs, and sustain the funding stability needed for the continued quality improvements, particularly as states are under significant budgetary pressures and cuts to Medicare Part A SNF payment rates. AHCA will be following up with MedPAC in the coming weeks before they vote on their final payment recommendations for the SNF PPS.

Emergency Preparedness

Mutual Aid Compact

During the recent GHCA council meetings, your Council Coordinators introduced the Mutual Aid Compact. This agreement mirrors the agreement that is currently implemented among the GA hospitals. It says that the center agrees to assist other centers (within reason and if they are able) during an emergency situation. This document is NOT a contract, but only a disaster agreement. In addition, this agreement has been reviewed and cleared by the GHCA legal team. It is our goal to have all facilities submit the document to GHCA and your Council Coordinator by the end of the year. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact your Council Coordinator or myself. Thank you.

Council Coordinators link: http://www.ghca.info/images/stories/preparedness/cc_contact_list.pdf

Mutual Aid Compact link: http://www.ghca.info/images/stories/preparedness/mutual_aid_compact_nursinghome_revised.pdf

For additional information concerning Emergency Preparedness and Response, please contact Tiffany Hanshaw at thanshaw@ghca.info.

2011 Long Term Care Emergency Preparedness Conference

This FREE conference is pending NAB hours, and is approved by the Georgia State Board of Nursing Home Administrators for 6 hours, including 1 hour of Ethics. You must register separately from the GHCA Mid Year convention by going to <http://www.certain.com/system/profile/form/index.cfm?PKformID=0x990376bead> .

The Department of Community Health in partnership with the Georgia Health Care Association is pleased to present the 2011 Long Term Care Emergency Preparedness Conference:

"Are You Ready to Respond?"

January 18, 2011

8:30am-4:00pm

Renaissance Waverly Atlanta

Registration and Continental Breakfast 7:00 am -8:30 am

You are invited to attend this premier event for long term care professionals in Georgia. We have planned a dynamic program packed with stimulating presentations and sessions geared towards emergency preparedness and it's FREE for everyone. This conference is open to all interdisciplinary team members and emergency preparedness and response personnel. For more conference details (including the agenda, session descriptions, and speaker information) simply click on the following link and complete the online registration form.

"Are You Ready to Respond?"

Please feel free to contact Natasha Pope (`document.write("); document.write (addy_text83276); document.write('<Va>'); //`) or Tiffany Hanshaw for more information.

Pandemic Flu

Healthcare providers play a crucial role during seasonal flu, and even more so during an influenza pandemic. The following guidance, checklists and information will assist healthcare providers in planning and responding to seasonal flu or a pandemic flu outbreak.

CDC Resources: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/pandemic/>

WHO checklist for influenza pandemic preparedness planning: <http://www.who.int/csr/resources/publications/influenza/FluCheck6web.pdf>

Using Facemasks and Respirators during a Flu Pandemic: <http://www.cdc.gov/features/MasksRespirators/>

Healthcare Volunteers Needed

Georgia officials are currently preparing for the H1N1 influenza campaign and the seasonal

influenza campaign that will be conducted during fall and winter. The Department of Community Health is asking all health professionals to serve as emergency response volunteers by signing up to assist with the 2009-2010 novel H1N1 vaccine immunization plan. For more information and to sign up for the online volunteer pool at www.servga.org.

Source: <http://www.sos.ga.gov/plb/nursinghome/>

2011 GHCA Mid Year Convention and Trade Show

Registration Now Open ONLINE!

As a Georgia long term care professional, there is one event you don't want to miss, The 2011 GHCA Mid Year Convention and Trade Show. In keeping with the theme, "Exemplary Enterprise... Revolutionary Results," GHCA is offering multiple education tracts for the first time. As you can tell from the impressive agenda, the GHCA Membership Services Committee has worked diligently on program sessions with innovative speakers and topics that can meet the varied interests of GHCA members. Licensed Nursing Home Administrators can choose from two main tracts. Pharmacists and Assisted Living professionals will have their own tracts to select, and there is more! The breakout sessions are by discipline this year. All disciplines in the nursing home including dietitians and therapists can attend a session designed with their needs in mind. Plus, you can register and pay securely online, at www.ghca.info Online registration is another great first for this GHCA event. Plan now to be in Atlanta in January and be part of the excitement! Take a look at a couple of the amazing speakers who will inspire you while you're there.

The Opening Session Speaker January 19, 2011

Steve Gilliland is one of the most in-demand and top rated speakers in North America. Recognized by his peers as a master storyteller and brilliant comedian, his appeal transcends barriers of age, culture and occupation. Steve's interactive and entertaining style helps audiences connect and relate as he shows them how to open doors to success in their careers, their relationships and their lives. He speaks to more than 250,000 people a year and has shared the platform with numerous dignitaries, including bestselling author Dr. Ken Blanchard, former Mayor of New York Rudolph Giuliani, University of Tennessee Women's Basketball Coach Pat Summit, Hall of Fame Quarterback of the Buffalo Bills Jim Kelly, comedian Howie Mandel and the creator of Chicken Soup for the Soul, Mark Victor Hansen.

The Convention Welcome Speaker at the ACHCA Dinner January 18, 2011

Christopher Lowell's "Ben Franklin Live!" performance enables you to experience Franklin's life in an engaging, accessible way, giving you an intimate look at what made our most revered

Founding Father tick. Chris's energy and wealth of knowledge make Ben's role in our history come alive in this wonderful program. After all, he has been an actor, director, historian and professor for over 30 years. You will hear reflections and anecdotes from Ben's remarkably diverse life that surprise and delight. After his monologue, Chris always leads a lively interactive session with the audience, answering questions in costume and character. Pulitzer-prize winning author, Gordon Wood, calls Christopher Lowell "The Best Benjamin Franklin I have ever seen!"

Education Updates

Critical Components of Infection Control Programs in Long Term Care Settings Registration is Now Open

February 9-10.....Stockbridge

March 9-10.....Gainesville

April 13-14..... Tifton

Presented in partnership with:

Georgia Medical Care Foundation (GMCF)

Georgia Health Care Association (GHCA)

Georgia Department of Community Health / Division of Public Health

Georgia Healthcare Facilities Regulation Division (HFRD)

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

Georgia Infection Prevention Network (GIPN)

Cost is \$70 for the Two Day Education Sessions to cover continental breakfast, lunch and afternoon snacks for both days. Please go to www.ghca.info to obtain a PDF copy of this brochure.

MDS 3.0 Two Day Basic Training with Implications for RUGs IV to begin monthly in February 2011

This program has a section just for activities and social services that you may register for instead of the full two days. It includes lunch on the first day. If you register for the full program, GHCA will serve you lunch both days. Registration is coming soon!

2011 GHCA Trade Show January 19-20, 2011 at the Cobb Galleria Centre and the Renaissance Waverly Hotel: Just a Few Booths Remain!!!

Please click on the link below for the details to purchase a booth and/or sponsor this event:

[2011 GHCA Trade Show Booth Purchase and Sponsorship](#)

Calendar of Events

January, 2011

18 Emergency Preparedness Conference, Renaissance Waverly & Cobb Galleria

18 GHCA Board

18 – 21 GHCA Mid-Year Convention, Renaissance Waverly & Cobb Galleria

20 Trade Show

February 2011

9 – 10 Critical Components of Infection Control, Fred A. Watson Training Center, Stockbridge

15 - 16 SOURCE New Case Manager Training, Fred A. Watson Training Center, Stockbridge

March, 2011

8 – 10 MDS 3.0 Certificate Class, Fred A. Watson Training Center, Stockbridge

9 – 10 Critical Components of Infection Control, Hilton Garden Inn, Gainesville, GA

15 GHCA Board & Committee Day, Fred A. Watson Training Center, Stockbridge

16 – 17 MDS 3.0 Certificate Class, Fred A. Watson Training Center, Stockbridge

23 – 25 Survival Course for the Long Term Care Nurse, Fred A. Watson Training Center, Stockbridge

28 – 4/1 Social Worker Spring Training, Fred A. Watson Training Center, Stockbridge

April, 2011

10 - 15 Activity Director's 36-Hour State-Approved Course, Fred A. Watson Training Center

13 – 14 Critical Components of Infection Control, UGA Tifton Campus Conference Center, Tifton

16 Ms. Georgia Nursing Home Pageant, Evergreen at Stone Mountain

May, 2011

8 – 14 National Nursing Home Week

13 GANLTC Mid-Year Meeting, Fred A. Watson Training Center, Stockbridge

17 GHCA Board & Committee Day, Fred A. Watson Training Center, Stockbridge

June, 2011

12 GHCA Board, Ritz Carlton Amelia Island, Florida

12 – 16 GHCA Annual Convention, Ritz Carlton Amelia Island, Florida

July, 2011

10 - 13 GSNHSW Annual Meeting, Evergreen Resort, Stone Mountain, GA

September, 2011

13 – 16 GANLTC Annual Meeting, Brasstown Valley Resort, Young Harris, GA

18 - 22 AHCA/NCAL Convention, Las Vegas, Nevada

October, 2011

2 - 5 GSNHAD Annual Meeting, Brasstown Valley Resort, Young Harris, GA

** A light lunch will be served on Committee and Board Days.*

** The Committee Chair may schedule additional meetings.*

** All Board and Committee Meetings will be held at the Fred A. Watson Education Center except at the Convention sites in January and June.*

Classified Ads

Long Term Care Supervisor

Whenever there's a challenge, you take it on. Whenever you can best your own performance, you're up for it. People with that kind of passion find not only what they need, but desire at Northeast Georgia Health System, just a short drive from Atlanta. We are currently seeking a full time Supervisor for our New Horizon's North Long Term Care Facility (3p – 11p, Monday through Friday with rotating weekends). If you are a Registered Nurse with a minimum of two years experience, a proven track record of success in a management or supervisory role and prior LTC or Med/Surg experience, we invite you to consider joining the NGHS team. Become a member of our highly respected and award-winning, professional healthcare team and you will receive a competitive salary and a lifestyle benefits package that can't be beat. Find out more about where passion translates to power at www.NGHSCareers.com, or email your resume to Taylor.Day@NGHS.com. We value diversity and always hire equally and equitably.

Twin View Healthcare, a 110 bed skilled nursing facility, has an excellent opportunity for an experienced Nursing Home Administrator

This experienced Administrator will be a team oriented leader with a desire to deliver high-quality care. The ideal candidate will have a solid track record of excellent performance in the areas of financial and operating systems, clinical services, quality census development, employee recruitment and retention, and positive community relations. Primary responsibilities of this position include overall management of the day-to-day operations of the facility, maintaining compliance with all applicable laws and regulations, ensuring continuity and consistency in delivery and quality of resident services, participation in sales and marketing activities, training and development of staff, development and implementation of programs to enhance resident satisfaction, and establishment of a climate necessary for continuous improvement.

We provide an excellent compensation package including: Fully paid healthcare coverage for single or family coverage; Fully paid life insurance, Paid-time-off program, Bonus opportunity.

Requirements: Qualified candidates must have: An Administrator's license in Georgia, 3-4 years of experience as a Nursing Home Administrator, Knowledge of federal and state regulations, Medicare and Medicaid knowledge, Strong leadership skills, A degree in healthcare, business, or related field is preferred. Please Contact Patrick Davies directly @ pdavies@mhgallc.com or 813-380-1219

Choosing a Nursing Home



There are many things you must carefully consider when choosing a nursing facility for yourself or a loved one.

[Click here for more info.](#)

Search for a Nursing Home



You can use the Georgia Health Care Association's online database to locate a nursing home near you.

[Click here to begin your search.](#)

GHCA Event Registration



Register online now for the 2011 GHCA Mid Year Winter Convention

[Click here to register.](#)

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