

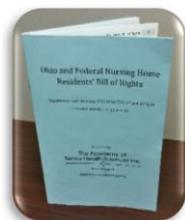
The Academy Weekly

News & Information for LTC Providers

The Academy of Senior Health Sciences, Inc.

www.seniorhealthsciences.org

Friday, 05 May 2017



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Ohio News

1. [HB 49: House caps SNF spending, removes PA1/2 changes](#)
2. [State revenues lower than expected by \\$160 million](#)
3. [ODM releases quarterly reporting form for vent units](#)
4. [PNA rules open for changes](#)

Federal News

5. [U.S. House passes AHCA, moves to Senate](#)
6. [Elder abuse posting; latest S&C Memos](#)
7. [CMS MLN Connects Provider eNews](#)

Ohio News

1. HB 49: House caps SNF spending, removes PA1/2 changes

As reported earlier this week, the House made its final changes to H.B. 49, "The Budget Bill." In an omnibus amendment, the House removed the rate reductions and changes to PA1/2 in the case mix score and instead imposed a cap on SNF spending. If spending exceeds the cap level, rate reductions will occur in the fourth quarter of the fiscal year. While the cap amount included \$100 million of the administration's reductions, it is still \$135 million below baseline levels. The idea is that the baseline level was over estimated and that spending will not exceed the cap. The bill now moves on to the Senate where hearing are being held. The Senate is expected to pass the bill in early June.

[\(back to top\)](#)

2. State revenues lower than expected by \$160 million

Ohio's revenue woes continued into April as state revenues were \$160 million below expected levels. This is in addition to the \$400 million decline reported earlier by OBM Director Keen. The House reduced the budget by around \$350 million, leaving the Senate to handle what is now estimated to be about a \$200 million per year short fall. The Senate is prepared to make further cuts and changes, although it is uncertain at this time how they will impact Medicaid. We will keep you updated as we learn more.

[\(back to top\)](#)

3. ODM releases quarterly reporting form for vent units

The Ohio Department of Medicaid has released the reporting spreadsheet to be used by facilities participating in the enhanced payment program for vent residents. [The spreadsheet can be downloaded by clicking here.](#) The first reportable quarter for the vent program is the second calendar quarter of this year (April to June). The report is due July 25, 2017.

[\(Back to top\)](#)

4. PNA rules open for changes

The rules governing a resident's personal needs allowance are open for comment due to the five year rule review requirement. The language has been updated to allow cell phones and other electronic devices to be paid out of these funds and to clarify that an owner of multiple facilities only had to submit notice of a surety bond once for all of their facilities. [You can view the proposed changes by clicking here.](#) Please [contact the Academy](#) if you have questions or comments. The comment deadline is May 9. [\(Back to top\)](#)

Federal News

5. U.S. House passes AHCA, moves to Senate

The U.S. House of Representatives passed legislation this week that would make significant changes to the Affordable Care Act, or Obamacare. The bill, termed American Health Care Act, passed by four votes, 217 to 213. Pre-existing conditions was a sticking point. An amendment allowing states to exempt coverage for those with pre-existing coverage was added followed by another that included funding of \$8 billion for individuals with pre-existing conditions. [According to the CommonwealthFund,](#) the bill would do the following:

- Phase out Medicaid expansion;
- Cap Medicaid payments to states;
- Flat premium tax credits adjusted for by age;
- Increases maximum rate differential between young and old from 1 to 3 to 1 to 5;
- Lack of coverage penalty changed to a 30% premium surcharge;
- Repeal of some taxes used to fund the ACA, and;
- Funding for states to reinsure to stabilize the individual insurance marketplace.

The bill now heads to the Senate were it is expected to undergo further changes. For now, the ACA remains in place. [\(Back to top\)](#)

6. Elder abuse posting; latest S&C Memos

CMS Region V is reminding providers about the elder abuse reporting posting requirements. SNFs must conspicuously post a notice specifying employees' rights to file a complaint under the Elder Justice Act. The posting must include how to file a complaint with the state survey agency. The requirements are located in section 1150B of the SSA at 42 U.S.C. 1320b-25.

S&C Memos

[17-25-NH: Electronic Staffing Submission - PBJ Update](#)

[17-26-NH: Notice of Proposed Rule Making: State Survey](#)

[\(Back to top\)](#)

7. CMS MLN Connects Provider eNews

[MLN Connects® for Thursday, May 4, 2017](#)

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News & Announcements

- DMEPOS Revised Blended Fee Schedule Amounts
- TEP on SNF QRP Development and Maintenance of Quality Measures: Nominations due May 12
- 2018 Medicare Shared Savings Program: Submit Notice of Intent to Apply by May 31
- MIPS: Submit Measures for the Advancing Care Information Performance Category by June 30
- Hospice Item Set V2.00.0 Receives OMB Approval
- EHR Incentive Programs: Review 2017 Program Requirements
- Hand Hygiene Day is May 5

Provider Compliance

- Cochlear Devices Replaced Without Cost: Bill Correctly

Upcoming Events

- MIPS Group Reporting 101 Webinar — May 11

Medicare Learning Network Publications & Multimedia

- Medicare Shared Savings Program Call: Audio Recording and Transcript — New
- Medicare Fraud & Abuse: Prevention, Detection, and Reporting Web-Based Training Course — Revised
- Medicare Ambulance Transports Booklet — Revised
- Looking for the Latest National Medicare Policy Information?

[\(Back to top\)](#)



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