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Welcome *Carolyn Barnard* to the AHCA staff. She recently started with us and takes on the role of Executive Assistant at the front desk. She comes with myriad of experience in office management including being a Notary Public. She can be reached at cbarnard@azhca.org. Check out our latest **A2Z Video** introducing the new staff - just **Click here** and take a look. Thanks for watching!
MEMBER NEWS

Welcome New Members
The AHCA Board of Directors approved the following new AHCA members:

Assurance Agency
1750 E. Golf Rd., Suite 1100
Schaumburg, IL 60173
www.assuranceagency.com
747-463-7225
Michael Turner, Senior Vice President
mturner@assuranceagency.com
Goods/Services: Insurance Brokerage

Greenburg Traurig, LLP
2375 E. Camelback Rd., Suite 700
Phoenix, AZ 85016
602-445-8000
www.gtlaw.com
Christine Stangl, Business Director
stanglc@gtlaw.com
Goods/Services: Law firm

Hacienda Del Ray
Maureen Bradley, Executive Director
12917 W. Las Cruces Dr., Cottages 1-5
Litchfield Park, AZ 85340
623-498-8682
Assisted Living Center
AL Beds: 50

The Buckner Company
6550 South Millrock Dr., Suite 300
Salt Lake City, UT 84121
801-937-6789
www.buckner.com
Brandon Robertson, Vice President of Healthcare
brandon@buckner.com
Goods/Services: Property and casualty insurance
NATIONAL

The federal government shutdown came to an end after having lasted 35 days, but with a catch. Simply put, another shutdown will occur if talks on border security and appropriations don't develop fruit by February 15th. It appears that a big border deal was fading even before it began. Senate Majority Leader McConnell is opposed to another shutdown, while the President finalizes details of a national emergency declaration to secure the border. So, although it doesn't seem like there is much to stomach in D.C. to do another shutdown, it may just come to that. Stay tuned!

PUBLIC POLICY

The Arizona Capitol is awash with activity as the legislature is in full swing, as you can tell by the mounting list of bills in our Bill List... One of the most critical deadline-sensitive issues is the drought legislation (DCP) that was debated ad nauseam last week. While many have been hard at work on the DCP, the legislature is proceeding with normal business. To date, more than 900 bills have been introduced - approximately 100 of those are health related. The Senate and House health committees have heard bills ranging from requiring AHCCCS to cover chiropractic care for its members to clarifying technical provisions of last year's opioid legislation. Some of the key pieces we are working on include:

- **HB 2075 / SB 1108**: Opioid E-Prescribing Exemption Starting 1/1/2020
- **HB 2117**: Video Cameras in DD/ICFs
- **HB 2152**: AHCCCS - Reporting of Behavioral Beds
- **SB 1244**: AHCCCS / NCIA AL Caregiver DCW Alignment
- **Workforce Study**

In response to the tragic events at Hacienda, the Governor's office called a meeting of the stakeholders recently to discuss possible solutions and legislation. As this develops, we will keep you on top of the issues.
Provider Assessment Taxes Were Due January 20, 2019: You have received your invoice and paid your provider assessment taxes by 1/20/19. If you did not do so, or need an invoice, please contact DOR and Margaret Asher at masher@azdor.gov. These dollars will be processed by DOR and sent to AHCCCS by February 20 with payments to the MCOs by February 28. You'll receive dollars within 20 days of that date. Keep in mind that the next tax deadline is scheduled for April 20, 2019.

AHCCCS Updates: The updates to the AHCCCS Medical Policy Manual (AMPM) and AHCCCS Contractor Operations Manual (ACOM) are now available on the AHCCCS website. Additionally, please reference the January 25, 2019 Revision Memo for a complete list of changes at the following links: AMPM Revision Memo - January 25, 2019. ACOM Revision Memo - January 25, 2019

Specifically, the changes include:

- AHCCCS provides an email address HealthPlan45DayNotice@azahcccs.gov for ACC plan or the NF to notify AHCCCS/DMS, if an ALTCS applicant has used 45 NF days, and a decision is still pending regarding eligibility.
- The policy now also specifies what information should be in the notification:

AHCCCS/DMS notifications shall include:

1. Members Name,
2. AHCCCS ID,
3. Date of Birth,
4. Name of Facility,
5. Admission Date to the Facility,
6. ALTCS Application Submission Date,
7. Date the member will exhaust 90 NF days for the current contract year, and
8. Name of Contractor of Enrollment.

CMS

CMP Inflation Adjustments: CMS published a memo summarizing the inflation adjustments to the CMP amounts that may be imposed for noncompliance on nursing centers. The new CMP amounts and ranges can be found in the Appendix of the memo. The adjusted amounts apply to CMPs assessed on or after October 11, 2018, which is when the rule was published that finalized the adjustments. The CMP Analytic Tool instructions and calculations will be updated to reflect these changes. The final rule only affects authorized CMP amounts and not other provisions in the CMP Tool, such as the factors for
CMS/HHS: In a January 18, 2019 MLN Matters Article, CMS promoted the use of a new electronic system for provider reimbursement review board appeals. The new system, the Office of Hearings Case and Document Management System (OH CDMS), went live on August 16, 2018. CMS encourages Part A providers such as SNFs to learn more about the benefits of using OH CDMS by attending the upcoming MLN event. You can register for the New Electronic System for Provider Reimbursement Review Board Appeals Call scheduled for TODAY, Tuesday, February 5 from 1:30 to 3 pm ET (11:30 - 1:00pm Arizona Time.)

Medicare Advantage Plan Changes Announced: CMS announced a broad array of changes to Medicare Advantage plans last week in hopes it will further pressure providers to up their game in caring for seniors. These "innovations" will include everything from customizing plans based on beneficiaries' chronic conditions and socioeconomic status to increasing access to telehealth services. It also wants to up plans' incentives for seniors to improve their health. The changes will be tested out as part of the Value Based Insurance Design model for 2020. Eligible plans in all 50 states will be able to apply for the innovations, according to a CMS fact sheet. Starting in 2021, they'll also start testing the inclusion of hospice benefits as part of Medicare Advantage. CMS said it's also planning to extend the performance period of its VBID model another three years, to 2024, to sufficiently evaluate the impact of these changes.

CMS Releases new "What's Covered" App: File this under the Better-Late-Then-Never folder, CMS has realized the value of 'new' technology and developed a new tool to help covered individuals. The new CMS "What's Covered" app lets people with original Medicare, caregivers, providers and others quickly see whether Medicare covers a specific medical item or service. You can now use your mobile device to more easily get accurate, consistent original Medicare coverage information in your office, the hospital, or anywhere. The free app is available in Google Play and the Apple App Store. You can see the full CMS Press Release on this and other eMedicare tools here.

QUALITY AND REGULATORY

Past Noncompliance - What is it and how is it determined by surveyors? Past noncompliance may be identified during any survey. For the purpose of making determinations of current noncompliance or past noncompliance, the survey team is expected to follow the investigative protocols and surveyor guidance. For surveyors to cite past noncompliance with a specific survey data tag (F-tag or K-tag), the following three criteria must be met:

1. The facility was not in compliance with the specific regulatory requirement(s) at
1. The noncompliance occurred before the entry date of the last standard (recertification) survey and before the survey (standard, complaint, or revisit) currently being conducted; and
2. The noncompliance occurred after the exit date of the last standard (recertification) survey and before the survey (standard, complaint, or revisit) currently being conducted; and
3. There is sufficient evidence that the facility corrected the noncompliance and is in substantial compliance at the time of the current survey.

A nursing home does not provide a plan of correction for a deficiency cited as past noncompliance because the deficiency is already corrected; however, the survey team documents the facility's corrective actions on the CMS-2567. Data about past noncompliance tags are not carried forward to subsequent revisit surveys.

A CMP may be imposed for past noncompliance since the last standard survey. CMS strongly urges states to recommend the imposition of a CMP for past noncompliance cited at the level of immediate jeopardy. Mandatory Immediate Imposition of Federal Remedies does not apply to past noncompliance deficiencies. The determination to impose a federal remedy for past noncompliance is not mandatory and is at the discretion of the CMS Regional Office (RO). If you have any questions, please contact Kay Huff at khuff@azhca.org.

**SNF QRP Data Now Available:** Nursing Home Compare released the quarterly information, including quality measure results based on SNF QRP data. The updated SNF quality measure results are based on data submitted to CMS between:

1. Quarter 2 - 2017 to Quarter 1 - 2018 data:
   - Application of Percent of Residents Experiencing One or More Falls with Major Injury (Long Stay) (#0674)
   - Percent of Residents or Patients with Pressure Ulcers That Are New or Worsened (Short Stay) (NQF #0678)
   - Application of Percent of Long-Term Care Hospital Patients with an Admission and Discharge Functional Assessment and a Care Plan That Addresses Function (#2631)
2. Quarter 4 - 2016 to Quarter 3 - 2017 data:
   - Medicare Spending Per Beneficiary - Post-Acute Care (PAC) Skilled Nursing Facility Measure
   - Discharge to Community- Post Acute Care (PAC) Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) Quality Reporting Program (QRP)

CMS announced in October 2018 that it will not publish a sixth previously posted quality measure, *Potentially Preventable 30-Day Post-Discharge Readmissions* at this time so they can continue testing. This additional testing will ensure that the future publicly reported measure is thoroughly evaluated. Please visit the [NH Compare website](https://www.nhcompare.com) to view the updated quality data. For more information, visit the [CMS SNF Quality Public Reporting webpage](https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/SNFQualityMeasures/index.html).
Have you recently had a AZ Department of Health Services (DHS) annual or complaint survey? AHCA is asking all facilities to please complete a brief survey about how their DHS survey was. This information will be used to determine where DHS is in their survey timeline and to identify any concerns that occurred during the survey. To complete the survey, click here. AHCA is also asking facilities to please email their SOD/2567 to khuff@azhca.org. The SOD/2567's will be used to track number of deficiencies cited, the scope and severity trends, and which deficiencies are being cited more frequently. If you have any questions, please contact khuff@azhca.org.

**DISASTER READY**

**AzCHER- Central New Member Orientation:** AzCHER-Central will begin providing a recurring new member orientation for those who have recently joined the coalition and for existing members who still have questions regarding engagement. Among the topics covered will be the structure and goals, staff roles and responsibilities, document differences, designated voting representative responsibilities, methods of communication and website familiarization, engaging for maximum benefit, ongoing trainings and exercises, general body meetings, available funding, the peer to peer program and committee operations. Registration will be limited to 15 individuals so don't delay in registering for the first session, February 19th from 9:00 -10:30 am. Orientation sessions will be offered monthly and will be held at Arizona Hospital and Healthcare Association (AzHHA).

**The Importance of Evacuation Drills:** A Rhode Island Provider is thanking their lucky stars that it had practiced evacuation drills after a recent loss of heat forced the facility to activate an emergency plan. The administrator said it was the largest evacuation ever and had they not been prepared it could have been a nightmare. Click here to read the full article in McKnight’s.

**Disaster Ready App - Are You Connected?** One of the great resources developed by Arizona's Disaster Ready Program is the Disaster Ready App. The resourceful tool provides users with fingertip access to critical information during an emergency including access to plans, contact lists, NHICS documents and more. The app gives you the ability to download critical information on your phone or other devices, so your Emergency Operations Plan and other important resource document will be available even when connectivity fails. Click here to learn how to download and use the app today. For more information, contact Stan Szpytek, AHCA Life Safety and Disaster Planning Consultant at 708-707-6363 or via email at Stan@azhca.org.
**EDUCATION**

*All Things Clinical Strive for 5 Forum - February 7, 2019 (Thursday).* Sign up TODAY for this comprehensive forum on clinical topics ranging from assessing change of condition, reducing pressure ulcers in your center, and antibiotic stewardship. If you didn't receive the 2 percent increase of the Differential Adjusted Payment (DAP) on October 1\(^{st}\), you learn here how to lower your pressure ulcer numbers to hopefully received the DAP this year. Keep in mind, the look back period for the upcoming DAP will be April 30\(^{th}\), so make plans to attend today. Register or learn more here.

*PDPM Seminar - February 28, 2019.* AHCA is partnering with AHCA/NCAL to bring national PDPM experts to present at this important day-long training, so be sure not to miss this event! NAB CEUs are available! NOTE: All attendees must attend a prerecorded, free webinar before the seminar (which is available here). To register or learn more click here.

*Time is Running Out to Save on Your Trade Show Booth: Prices go up February 15\(^{th}\)!* Don't forget to sign up for your trade show booth for the AHCA Annual Convention & Expo, June 18-20, 2019. Booths have sold out the past nine years, so be sure to reserve yours now and get your pick of available booth locations. Sign up before February 15\(^{th}\) to get your pick of the booths at a discounted rate. For more information or to register, click here. For questions, contact Brittany Page at brittanyp@azhca.org or 602-265-5331.

*Preceptor Certification Training in Phoenix on March 22, 2019* - All AITs (Administrator-In-Training) in Arizona must be trained by a Certified Preceptor and have their program approved by the American College of Health Care Administrators (ACHCA) AIT Program Advisory Committee PRIOR to training program starting date. Certification/Recertification Training will be held in Phoenix on March 22, 2019. The instructor for the AIT Preceptor course will be Susan Bender, Chair, AIT Program Advisory Committee. For registration information contact Susan Bender at Bender9@cox.net.

*Independent Owner (IO) Leadership Conference & Quality Summit* - AHCA/NCAL is hosting their Quality Summit on March 18-20, 2019 at the Tampa Marriott Waterside Hotel. The Quality Summit is an excellent networking forum. This is the perfect time to share your successes and your challenges with like-minded colleagues from across the country. For more information, click here. Following the Quality Summit, AHCA//NCAL will host the annual IO Conference on March 20-22, 2019 at the same location. Highlights of this conference include town hall meetings, networking, LED Talks, and up to 12.75 CEUs. For more information, click here.
Save the Date - AHCA Annual Convention and Expo will be held on June 18-20, 2019 at the Talking Stick Resort in Scottsdale. This year, the convention is getting a facelift with exciting changes like a new schedule on Tuesday, a new awards ceremony, and more! You will not want to miss this informative and fun event, so save the date. The brochure should be available in mid-March so keep your eyes out.

Sponsorship Opportunities Abound - AHCA has many exciting sponsorship opportunities available to help you meet your business goals. This year is filled with quality education programs hosted by AHCA to support our skilled nursing and assisted living members. We truly appreciate the support at whatever you budget will allow. Please email me at dvoepel@azhca.org if you would like to sign on as a sponsor for our annual convention and/or the Strive for 5 Forums! The sponsorships help us to secure top notch speakers and keep registration costs low. For more information, click here.

Foundation

Apply for Live a Dream Awards for Residents ...All Year Long: Do you have a resident in your facility with a special need, a wish or a lifetime dream? Please, let us know! The Arizona Health Care Foundation (AHCF) is committed to making those dreams come true. Click here to download an application, or go to our website at www.azhca.org/foundation/ (they are very easy to complete), and allow us to make dreams come true. Please know that AHCF is actively soliciting "Live A Dream" applications from all member skilled nursing and assisted living communities. No doubt each of you has at least one compelling resident "dream" and we would love to hear about it. If you would like an application, please contact Krysten Dobson at kdobson@azhca.org or 602-265-5331. A few minutes of your time could change someone's life!

AHCA PAC

Now that football season is over are you ready for some baseball?? It is the Arizona Diamondbacks vs. Chicago Cubs at Sloan Park on February 26th for a 1:05 p.m. first pitch. Proceeds to benefit the new AHCA PAC. Click here sign up - the cost is $150 and includes your baseball ticket on the Party Deck, food and beverages. Sign up TODAY because the seats are limited.