



District of Columbia
Health Care Association

DCHCA News You Can Use

April 1, 2008

Register Now for DCHCA 18th Annual Convention & Trade Show

Safety First - It's Everyone's Responsibility *Providing Safety While Maintaining Sanity in Your Health Care Facility* Registration forms and online registration is available now at www.dchca.org . June 5, 2008 will be a full day itinerary with attendees participating in education sessions tuned into key LTC safety issues. 5.0contact hours for nursing home administrators, nurses, activity professionals, social work and dieticians have been approved. Conference features include: 40+ Exhibitor Trade Show, Annual DCHCA Awards, Electronics Raffles, Silent Auction, excellent education programs and an opportunity to network with your peers. Contact Gail Jernigan, Convention Chair gjernigan@seniorsnorth.com 202-889-0266 for more information.

CMS Northeastern Consortium Survey & Certification Officers meet with DCHCA

Pressure ulcer rates down in DC nursing facilities. Roger Lukoff, CMS, Northeast Consortium Survey and Certification Officer congratulated DC nursing homes on the work that they are doing to reduce pressure ulcers and in keeping residents restraint free. CMS representatives also discussed state survey agency performance, the use of civil monetary penalty funds, special focus facilities and the listing of targeted facilities for the QIOs 9th scope of work.

Emergency Care Reform Initiative

Dave Chandra, Special Assistant to the Director, DC Dept. of Health is leading an emergency care reform initiative on behalf of Mayor Fenty that is targeting ways to reduce the strain on the District's emergency care resources. DOH, together with GW University Capstone students in the Master's of Public Policy program and DCHCA long term care providers met to begin analysis of ER usage by

nursing home residents. The reform initiative will seek innovative solutions to improve the delivery of emergency and urgent –but not emergent care to seniors and physically disabled residents of nursing facilities. *If you have not submitted your facility specific demographic data, please do so today.*

Uncompensated Care Reporting for Nursing Homes

On May 18, 2006, the District of Columbia Council approved new “Uncompensated Care” rules. Consistent with the law, the regulations require that health care facilities submit an annual report to the SHPDA on uncompensated care. SHPDA is now collecting this data from health care providers in the District of Columbia. Nursing facilities will soon receive a request that you submit data on the amount of uncompensated care provided by your facility during Fiscal Year 2007. DCHCA members are encouraged to attend an informational meeting with SHPDA on Friday, April 18, 2008 at 11:00 am at the Department of Health, 825 North Capitol Street. Room: TBD

AHCA Requests Assistance on Completing Medicaid Shortfall Study

Once again we are asking DCHCA members to assist AHCA and DCHCA in our efforts to collect the information necessary to educate legislators about the underfunding of Medicaid services in nursing facilities. Lois Ehle will be compiling the data for DC facilities and submitting it Joe Lubarsky. If Lois prepares your cost reports please send her an email authorizing her to release the 2006 cost report data. If someone else prepares your cost report, please forward a copy of your report to Lois. Please contact Veronica Damesyn-Sharpe or Lois Ehle if you have any questions. The information is due to Joe Lubarsky and AHCA before the end of April so plan on getting your info to Lois Ehle no later than April 15th.

Economic Stimulus Act of 2008 and It’s Impact on Medicaid Eligibility

On February 13, 2008, President Bush signed into law the Economic Stimulus Act of 2008 (“Act”). The Act provides, among other things, direct payments to select taxpayers, including those individuals who have no tax liability and receive Medicaid benefits. In particular, Medicaid beneficiaries are eligible to receive a payment or rebate of \$300 (\$600 on a joint return) if the beneficiary had at least \$3,000 of qualifying income in 2007. Qualifying income includes Social Security benefits, certain Railroad Retirement benefits, and certain veterans’ benefits. In order to receive the rebate, eligible individuals must file a 2007 federal income tax return. Medicaid beneficiaries who would not otherwise file a tax return are encouraged, but not required, to file a return by April 15, 2008 in order to be among the first to receive a rebate payment. The IRS has announced plans to beginning sending rebate payments at the beginning of May 2008. In any case, taxpayers should file before October 15, 2008 in order to receive the rebate. The rebate provided by the Act will **not** count as income or resources for Medicaid purposes during the month of receipt or the following two months and will not

have any effect on eligibility for taxpayers should file before October 15, 2008 in order to receive the rebate.

DCHCA is seeking community volunteers that could work with facilities to assist residents in completing their returns. Please contact Veronica Damesyn- Sharpe if you are interested.

NPI & NDC Training for District Nursing Homes

The Department of Health, Medical Assistance Administration (MAA), is requiring the National Provider Identifier (NPI), and National Drug Code (NDC), beginning **May 17, 2008**. The new claim forms, CMS 1500 (version 08/05), UB-04, and ADA 2006, will also be required beginning **May 17, 2008**. In preparation, the Medical Assistance Administration has developed training to inform you of the NPI and NDC implementation requirements at MAA for submitting claims. NPI & NDC training will be held on Thursday, April 10, 2008 at The Washington Center for Aging Services from 1:30pm -3:30pm. Please RSVP to Veronica Damesyn-Sharpe.

Wellspring Breakfast Meeting

DCHCA will host a Breakfast Meeting to learn more about Wellspring. Funding for facility participation in Wellspring has been approved as a use for the Quality of Care Fund. Wednesday April 9th at the Methodist Home at 8:30 am. Please RSVP to Karen Fryer 202-777-3337 or kfryer@methodisthomeofdc.org

Assisted Living and CRF Program Manager Change

Patricia VanBuren, Program Manager within the Health Regulation Administration is now responsible for the inspection and licensure of Assisted Living Residences and Community Residential Facilities for the Elderly (Chapter 34). Ms. Patricia Van Buren can be reached at 202-442-4726. Please forward all correspondence, inquiries, etc. in reference to these programs to Ms. Van Buren.

Convention Sponsorships and Exhibitor Space Still Available

The best opportunity to promote your business and services to long term care professionals in Washington, DC. Build upon the many opportunities provided for your exposure to upper management, regional managers, owners, and operators, clinical and ancillary personnel. Thursday, June 5, 2008, University of Maryland University College Conference Center, Adelphi MD. Registration forms and information are available on the web at www.dchca.org Contact Gail Jernigan, Convention Chair gjernigam@seniorsnorth.com 202-889-0266

Thank you to our early sponsors!

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Member Meeting

The April DCHCA membership meeting is being sponsored by Radiation Physics. The meeting will be held at Phillips Seafood Restaurant 900 Water Street, SW on Tuesday, April 15th from noon -2:00 pm. RSVP to Rich Berry, 301-937-4072 ext 227. Sheila Jones, PhD will give a brief presentation on Money Follows the Person.

DCHCA Workgroup Meeting Schedule

Convention Committee – April 2, 2008 3:00 pm Lisner Home

April 16, 2008 3:00 pm Conference Call

Moving Quality Forward/Education- April 30, 2008 2:00 pm The Methodist Home

DCHCA Preferred Provider Programs

- **Bollinger Energy Corporation**
Contact Matt Bollinger @ matt@bollingerenergy.com or 800-260-0505 for more information on how Bollinger Energy Corporation can help you stabilize and reduce your energy costs.
- **Zimmet Health Care Services Group**
Zimmet Healthcare Services Group, LLC assists Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNFs) in the development of financial and clinical systems for maximizing reimbursement, improving operational efficiency and maintaining the integrity of the Medicare and Medicaid programs. Zimmet staff has extensive experience with the complexities of SNF payment system including "case-mix" Medicaid

programs and Medicare post-acute care payment systems. DCHCA members receive a 10% discount from standard rates. Contact Marc N. Zimmet, Zimmet Healthcare Services Group, LLC marc@zhealthcare.com for more information O (732) 970-0733F (732) 970-0736

- **National Enrollment Services.**
Billions of dollars in tax credits go unclaimed each year. NES works with employers to reduce the amount of Federal Income Taxes your company pays. NES can also help your qualified employees receive more take home money per month by processing their Earned Income Tax Credit. Contact Howard Labow at NES for more information. 800-966-6637 or hlabow@nesbenefits.com
- **Payce Payroll**
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This partnership enables Payce to provide current DCHCA members with significant cost savings on their payroll processing. Log on to www.paycepayroll.com to find out how you can start saving money- or call 1-800-729-5910 to set up an appointment with a Payce representative.
- **Group Purchasing - HPSI**
DCHCA has partnered with HPSI Group Purchasing Services to offer you affordable medical, dietary and office supplies along with superior service. *Leverage the purchasing power of over 6,000 HPSI members to save money on your supply needs!* Contact Marie Chmura HPSI Purchasing Consultant to see how HPSI can work for you (o) 540-743-2653 Email:mariec@hpsionline.com
- **Healthcare Communications – IlluminAge**
IlluminAge offers quality video training packages on a broad range of critical issues, from workplace safety and infection control to residents' rights and advance directives. They are the smart choice for outsourcing the WEB, PRINT and MULTIMEDIA projects you don't have time for. Contact Dennis Kenny for more information 800-448-5213 or service@illuminAge.com Visit the website to place an order www.illuminAge.com and use Customer Code "A-21" for DCHCA member discount.