



Nursing Home Weekly: Recap of LeadingAge Updates

September 23, 2022

Coronavirus Update Calls September 26 and 28. Many COVID-positive older adults who would have benefited from palliative care or hospice were not able to receive these key services. On **Monday, September 26, 3:30pm ET, Kerry Hamilton, Chief Innovation Officer, Ohio's Hospice**, will share the results of his organization's study on older adults who missed these end of life services and how this impacts long-term services and supports. On **Wednesday, September 28, 3:30pm ET**, we will be joined by **Dr. Pam Davis**, whose research at **Case Western University** has shown that older adults who recovered from COVID-19 now have a higher risk of an Alzheimer's diagnosis. Dr. Davis will provide insights from her research and answer member questions on how the findings can impact care for older adults. If you haven't registered for LeadingAge Update Calls, [you can do so here](#). You can also find previous call recordings [here](#). Note that to access recordings of the calls you need a LeadingAge password. Any staff member of any LeadingAge member organization can set up a password to access previous calls and other "members only" content.

LeadingAge Nursing Home Network. Join us Tuesday, September 27 at 2pm ET for the monthly Nursing Home Network. This month, we'll be joined by Alice Bonner of IHI to talk about the work of Moving Forward: Nursing Home Quality Coalition that is working to advance the recommendations of the NASEM report. Not yet a member of the Nursing Home Network? Register [here](#).

New Nursing Home RoPs Guidance 2022 Recap. As promised, we've been busy releasing resources to help nursing homes implement the new RoPs surveyor guidance (compliance date: October 24, 2022). Keep an eye on the [Nursing Home RoPs Tools and Resources](#) page for the latest. In addition to the 14 implementation checklists and 2 QuickCasts previously released, in the past week we have released 4 new toolkits:

- Infection Control
- Antibiotic Stewardship
- Psychotropic Medication Use
- Drug Regimen Review

An addendum to our Trauma Informed Care Resources:

- Trauma Informed Care Addendum

And, as we work to update our Staff Competency Toolkit, we have updated 3 KSA competencies:

- Accident and Incident KSA
- Basic Nursing Skills KSA
- Caring for the Resident Environment KSA

Keep an eye out for more resources coming soon!

NHSN Webinar on Flu Vaccination Reporting: CDC will host a webinar on September 27 at 1:30pm ET on flu vaccination reporting through NHSN for the 2022 – 2023 flu season. Register for the webinar [here](#). Recall that nursing homes will begin reporting flu vaccinations for staff through NHSN this flu season as part of the new SNF QRP measure Influenza Vaccination Coverage among Healthcare Personnel. The

specifications of this measure require nursing homes to make at least one report within 45 days of the conclusion of the flu season on March 31, 2023.

Flu Vaccines for 65+: For the 2022-2023 flu season, CDC is recommending individuals aged 65 years and older receive different vaccines than the rest of the population. CDC recommends higher dose vaccines or adjuvanted vaccines over standard vaccines based on studies that suggested these vaccines are more effective than standard vaccines in individuals aged 65 years and older. CDC recommends that individuals aged 65 years and older should not get a nasal spray flu vaccine. Read more about these recommendations [here](#).

LeadingAge Annual Meeting Session Guide for Nursing Homes: Headed to Denver for LeadingAge Annual Meeting in October? LeadingAge has been busy curating session guides to help members sort through the bounty of educational offerings. Check out the nursing homes session guide [here](#). We note that the session guides are not exhaustive and providers will find additional sessions covering a broad range of topics including leadership, workforce, technology, DEI, and more in our [main session listing](#).

Hearing: Examining Long-Term Care in America: The Impact of the Coronavirus in Nursing Homes. On September 21, the House Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis held a hybrid hearing, “Examining Long-Term Care in America: The Impact of the Coronavirus in Nursing Homes.” Initially, the Select Subcommittee indicated the hearing would explore structural problems in nursing homes and what improvements might be needed to ensure residents and staff are protected from the coronavirus and other public health risks. Immediately prior to the hearing, the Select Subcommittee issued a press release, “[New Evidence of Dire Conditions at For-Profit Nursing Home Chains in 2020](#),” announcing “new evidence of dire conditions inside for-profit nursing home chains during the early months of the pandemic, as well as documents that shed light on how convoluted corporate structures have been used by for-profit nursing home chains and may have helped these companies to obscure profits and avoid accountability.”

The hearing subsequently focused on the Subcommittee’s key findings, as noted in the press release. In a forthcoming article, LeadingAge will provide an overview of the hearing, including details on how we will continue our dialogue with Congressional leaders and those on the Select Subcommittee. Hearing witnesses were: Dr. Alice Bonner, Senior Advisor for Aging, Chair, Institute for Healthcare Improvement, Moving Forward Nursing Home Quality Coalition; Dr. David Grabowski, Professor of Health Care Policy, Department of Health Care Policy, Harvard Medical School; Adelina Ramos, Certified Nursing Assistant, Greenville, RI; Dr. Jasmine Travers MHS, RN, Assistant Professor of Nursing, New York University Rory Meyers College of Nursing; and, Daniel Arbeen, son of a nursing home resident. You can watch the hearing [here](#). LeadingAge’s statement on the hearing is [here](#).

LeadingAge Voting Resources. September 20 was National Voter Registration Day – an important reminder that having a plan to vote is really important for this upcoming election. Coming out of the pandemic, many states are once again changing the way citizens can vote in their communities. Some are expanding opportunities to vote and unfortunately some states are limiting options. LeadingAge has been passionate about ensuring that older adults have access to voting and the ability to register to vote. We have created an easy to use website, www.leadingage.org/votingplan that will allow anyone to look up their registration status, register to vote, request a mail-in ballot, find their polling place and even look up local candidates. Please share this tool with members and help ensure that everyone has a plan for how they are going to vote this election.

Quality Measure Threshold Recalibration. A reminder that the Nursing Home Quality Measure Thresholds for the Five Star Rating System on Care Compare will recalibrate next month on October 26, with the quarterly refresh. As [announced in 2019](#), the methodology for recalibration is an incremental increase every six months at the rate of 50% of the rate of increase in the previous period. This increase will impact the Quality Measure domain rating, which in turn impacts the Overall Five Star Quality Rating System. Take a look at how your nursing home measures up with the [LeadingAge Quality Metrics tools](#) from LeadingAge NY.

State Medicaid Letter on RUGs transition and integrating PDPM into UPL demonstrations. On September 21, CMS released a state Medicaid director letter that provides states with guidance on nursing facility state plan payment and upper payment (UPL) approaches in Medicaid that rely on the Medicare PDPM. The letter discusses the differences between Medicare and Medicaid skilled nursing facility benefits, PDPM as a payment system, using PDPM as the UPL demonstration methodology in Medicaid, and other considerations. This guidance is critical since CMS is no longer supporting the Medicare RUGs systems after October 1, 2023, The letter can be found [here](#).

LeadingAge Article on Deadline to Claim PRF funds, Action Required. Here is a [link](#) to the information we reported on Monday, Sept 19 that HRSA has set an October 21, 5 p.m. Central Time deadline by which providers must complete Optum Pay enrollment or forgo Phase 4/ARP Rural PRF funds for which they have already been determined eligible. We have every reason to believe that Phase 4 payments will be the final round of PRF distributions and as such, encourage providers to act quickly.

HRSA Announces Geriatric Academic Career Awards (GACA). The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) released its funding [announcement](#) for the Geriatric Academic Career Awards. The purpose of the GACA program is to support the career development of junior faculty as academic geriatricians or academic geriatrics specialists to provide health care for older adults. Applications are open until November 3, 2022. The award amount for each candidate would be up to \$81,746, per year and there will be 26 awards for the period July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2027. The GACA program supports the career development of junior faculty as academic geriatricians or academic geriatrics specialists and is open to accredited health professions schools or graduate programs approved by the Secretary including:

- schools of allopathic medicine, osteopathic medicine, nursing, dentistry, pharmacy, allied health, physician assistant programs, chiropractic, podiatric medicine, optometry, public health, and veterinary medicine;
- accredited graduate programs in health administration and behavioral health and mental health practice including clinical psychology, clinical social work, professional counseling, and marriage and family therapy;
- Tribes and tribal organizations are eligible if they otherwise meet the eligibility requirements.

AHRQ Grantee Talks Healthcare-Associated Infections During Transitions to Home Care. A new [profile](#) from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality of Dr. Sara Keller at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine highlights her passion for Healthcare-Associated Infections (HAI) and her research on how patients self-administer complicated IV antibiotics in the home. Her research has helped develop [protocols](#) for Outpatient Parenteral Antibiotic Therapy, [identified](#) barriers to antimicrobial stewardship in the hospital-to-home transition, development of a home infusion collaborative, and evaluating home

healthcare responsiveness to safety threats in older adult's care transitions during the COVID-19 pandemic.

KFF Analysis Finds MA Beneficiaries Receive Fewer PAC Services. The Kaiser Family Foundation [released](#) a new literature review of 62 studies which found Medicare Advantage plan enrollees used post-acute care (PAC) less than people with traditional Medicare. While the review could not determine if the lower PAC use was associated with better or worse outcomes, authors theorized that prior authorization denials or better coordination of care could lead to lower PAC use in MA beneficiaries. The review also found that MA beneficiaries were more likely to access skilled nursing homes and home health agencies with lower quality ratings than traditional Medicare beneficiaries.

Provider Relief Reporting Period 3 Deadline is September 30, 11:59 PM ET. This is a friendly reminder that all providers who received Provider Relief Fund payments January 1 – June 30, 2021 must submit a report for Reporting Period 3 (RP3) by September 30 at 11:59 p.m. ET on how those funds were used. If members have questions that are preventing them from completing their reports, they can reach out to Nicole (NFallon@leadingage.org) for assistance.

Ladders and Lattices: Grow the Aging Services Workforce

We're one week away from our virtual event with aging services thought leaders discussing the importance of aging services providers to develop career ladders and lattices for their workforce. Join us Wednesday, September 28 at 1 p.m. ET. As the sector struggles with a workforce crisis, they urge a focus on practical ways to build formal advancement opportunities and support the personal and professional goals of individual staff members. [Register here.](#)

Call for Sessions Now Open: 2023 LeadingAge Annual Meeting + EXPO

Do you want to drive the conversation forward and contribute to progress in aging services? The sector's most prominent event is coming to Chicago, IL from November 5-8, 2023. Start planning your proposals to present at the 2023 LeadingAge Annual Meeting + EXPO. Session proposals must be submitted by December 5, 2022. [Learn more and submit proposals here.](#)

