

Medicaid HCBS and PACE Weekly: Recap of Leading Age Updates

January 20, 2022

Upcoming LeadingAge Coronavirus Calls. Interested in hiring refugees? What about the impact of the pandemic on society and on individuals as we get to the next normal? All calls are 3:30 PM ET. Join us on **Monday, January 23**, as we speak with Mary Klein from Westminster Communities of Florida about her organization's Afghan Refugee resettlement project. **On Wednesday, January 25**, Karen Kaplan, Science and Medicine Editor at the Los Angeles Times will join us to share her observations of changes in health care, society, and individuals' behaviors as a result of the pandemic. She has consistently provided timely, unique, and hard-hitting coverage over the course of the past three years. She has always paid attention to older people and been supportive of aging services. 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.

New Adult Day VA rates released; new (mostly higher!) rates begin Feb 1, 2023. The Veterans' Administration (VA) released new rates for CY 2023 that are effective for care delivered on and after February 1, 2023. Nationally, ADS rates increased by 7%, then adjusted by the location's wage index. In about 10 locations, VA medical centers (VAMC) asked the VA to freeze CY 2022 rates for CY 2023 and these requests were approved; most of the locations were in Northern California.

Please find the rate sheet [here](#). There are 4 ADS codes to be looking for:

- S5102 – Main per diem code
- S5105 – Additional services code
- S5101 – Half day per diem code
- T2003 – Transportation code – one-way

A shortcut to scrolling is to search for the location of interest – then search of the HCPC code. The VA is looking into whether they can make LeadingAge an adult day specific rate sheet; LeadingAge will distribute this if it comes to fruition

CDC Releases New Dashboards for Tracking Respiratory Disease. CDC has released two new dashboards for tracking respiratory disease including COVID-19, flu, and RSV. [Respiratory Virus Hospitalization Surveillance Network \(RESP-NET\)](#), interactive dashboard updated weekly, can be used to follow trends and see comparisons of COVID-19, influenza, and RSV -associated hospitalization rates in different demographic groups including by age, sex, and race and ethnicity, and across seasons. A [second dashboard](#) provides a view of emergency department visit data for multiple respiratory diseases tracked by the National Syndromic Surveillance Program (NSSP). These dashboards will prove useful to providers implementing infection control surveillance systems and in determining appropriate infection prevention and control strategies based on the prevalence of these respiratory infections in the surrounding community.

Joint replacements performed by high-volume surgeons result in significantly better outcomes. Recent [research](#) by [Clarify Health Institute](#) analyzed approximately 14% (over 178,000 combined) of full hip and knee replacements performed across the United States in 2021. The findings indicate reductions in post-acute readmissions, revision surgeries, and ED visits. These findings could be important financial considerations in making provider specialist contracting decisions or when assisting residents or participants with decisions related to selecting surgeons for hip or knee replacements.

FAQs on LeadingAge test ordering website available now. To help aging services providers navigate utilization of the LeadingAge test ordering website, we asked a number of FAQs of HHS and wrote them up for those ordering tests. The FAQs can be found at [this link](#).

Anticipated Delay of Fiscal Year 2024 White House Budget Request. Observers expect the President's FY24 budget request to Congress to be delayed until March, potentially pushing back Congress's appropriations timeline. The President's budget request is considered the first step in the federal budget process that includes passing annual appropriations bills that fund the government. Although federal law sets the target date of the President's budget request as the First Monday in February, this timeline often shifts depending on the circumstances. We will provide additional updates on the federal budget process as it evolves.