



Pennsylvania Coalition of Affiliated
Healthcare & Living Communities

PACAH 2024 Spring Conference & Vendor Show ***Tentative Virtual Agenda***

MONDAY, APRIL 15, 2024

1 – 4:15 p.m. – PELICAN Training (2 CEUs)

Buckle Your Seatbelts: Risk Turbulence Ahead for LTC Providers

This interactive session will include a robust discussion of risks facing the long-term care industry in 2024. In addition to discussing new risk areas, we will also provide strategies for mitigation.

Objectives:

- Review civil litigation verdicts and discuss lessons learned.
- Understand new federal and state enforcement actions.
- Strategize for avoiding discrimination allegations including those related to substance use disorder and other accommodations.

Angela H. Sanders, Esq.

*Principal, Employment & Labor Practice Group
Post & Schell, P.C.*

Mark L. Mattioli, Esq.

*Principal, Health Care Practice Group
Post & Schell, P.C.*

TUESDAY, APRIL 16, 2024

8 – 9 a.m. – General Session (1 CEU)

Outreach Strategies

Outreach strategies continue to shift with healthcare changes. In this session we will discuss outreach strategies (both internal and external) and how to implement and empower team members. Attendees will walk away with tools that will help continue to meet the needs of customers now and in the future.

Tricia Whaley

*Senior Director Provider Relations
CHR Consulting Services, Inc.*

9:15 – 10:15 a.m. – General Session (1 CEU)

Refocusing on Function: Importance, Practices, and Processes

CMS is continuing to drive the narrative on outcomes with proposed changes to the MDS as well as Quality Reporting and Value Based Purchasing Programs. The confusion with the removal of Section G and implementation of an OSA for Medicaid purposes makes correct coding of functional items crucial. This course will review the changes to each program with focus on each functional outcomes measure. We will review best practices, competencies, and the programming required to achieve good results. Collaboration and communication strategies will be emphasized to ensure accurate capture on the MDS for rate setting and quality programs. The attendee will be able to discuss the upcoming changes to the quality reporting and value-based purchasing (VBP) programs. The attendee will be able to discuss the function-based quality measures including coding instructions, roles of the IDT and reporting processes that will drive quality improvement efforts. The attendee will be able to utilize a collaborative approach to care that will facilitate good patient outcomes and quality reporting.

*Heather Meadows
Director of Operations
Premier Therapy*

*Julie Bellucci
Director of Clinical Development & Compliance
Premier Therapy*

10:30 – 11:30 a.m. – General Session (1 CEU)

Challenges and Projections Related to PDPM in 2024

The Patient Driven Payment Model (PDPM) has been in place since October 1, 2019, however, this past year, since the end of the Public Health Emergency, CMS has been more visible with reviews. TPE audits, SMRC audits, changes in the MDS 3.0 version and RAI manual have had different impacts. This session will outline root causes of increased scrutiny for PDPM, projections for CMS review the remainder of the year, and recommendations for internal monitoring to minimize impact.

*Kay P. Hashagen, PT, MBA, RAC-CT
Senior Consultant
LW Consulting, Inc.*

1 – 2 p.m. – General Session (1 CEU)

2024 Employment Law Update

Supervisory and administrative staff are on the front lines of employee management and are often the eyes and ears of their employers' Human Resource Departments, which are responsible for compliance with a variety of federal, state, and local regulations. Supervisors must be able to spot issues and effectively deal with the ever-changing needs of the work force. The regulatory landscape is also constantly changing based on the implementation of rules, the current administration, and the composition of regulatory agency staff. Attendees will be advised about recent developments in employment and labor law, including the Family Medical and Leave Act, Title VII discrimination cases, National Labor Relations Board activity, social media issues, privacy issues, ADA compliance, FMLA best practices and compliance, and medical marijuana. Other areas of emphasis will include litigation settlements and strategies to avoid litigation altogether. The presenter will draw on his experience by sharing real life examples and hypothetical scenarios to help participants understand how various employment and labor laws apply to their worksite. Participants will learn best practices under employment and labor laws, rules, regulations and in harmony with court decisions to successfully avoid legal mistakes and the potential for litigation. Depending on the introduction of rules, regulations, legislation, and court rulings between now and Spring 2024, this session will also address other "update issues" in state, federal and local law, and address matters that are state of the industry.

*Andrew P. Dollman, Esq.
Member & Chair, Employment and Labor Law Group
Latsha Davis & Marshall, P.C.*

2:15 – 3:15 p.m. – General Session (1 CEU)

Infection Prevention – “Be Aware of the Danger but Recognize the Opportunity”

Protecting residents and staff from infections and harm is a basic standard of care. The increasing spread of multidrug-resistant organisms (MDROs) has been identified by the Centers for Disease Control as a serious threat requiring urgent action. Infections caused by these organisms are more difficult to treat, have limited treatment options, and have higher morbidity and mortality.

Long-term care residents are at high risk of developing infections caused by easily transmittable and/or high-risk pathogens, such as *Candida auris*, CRE, norovirus, and MDROs. To protect residents and staff and prevent the spread of pathogens, it is necessary to understand and follow basic infection prevention principles. This presentation will review high risk and easily transmittable organisms encountered in facilities and discuss the ways to minimize exposure to pathogens through the use of basic infection prevention principals including hand hygiene and special precautions.

Objectives:

- Explain how resistance develops and review the high risk, easily transmittable organisms that may be encountered in LTC

- Identify ways to minimize exposure and describe the types of transmission-based precautions and when to institute them
- Recognize the importance of early recognition of infection for resident and healthcare worker safety and well-being

Professional Practice Gap:

The frequent turnover of staff and the number of new Infection Preventionists in LTC has contributed to decreased awareness of clinically significant organisms, the mechanisms of how resistance develops, and knowledge of best practices to prevent the spread of transmission. This presentation will provide education on the development of drug resistance and review ways to break the chain of transmission of disease through best practices including hand hygiene, standard precautions, transmission based precautions, and enhanced barrier precautions.

*JoAnn Adkins, BSN, RN, CIC, FAPIC
Senior Infection Preventionist
Pennsylvania Patient Safety Authority*

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17, 2024

8 – 8:30 a.m. – PACAH Business Meeting (.5 CEUS)

PACAH's Executive Director will update members on current policy, regulatory and legislative issues impacting long-term care facilities. These updates will include information on funding, IGT, Community HealthChoices, COVID-19, and other pertinent issues.

*Chase Cannon
Executive Director
PACAH*

8:45 – 9:45 a.m. – General Session (1 CEU)

The Intersection Between Adverse Surveys and Litigation: Ways to Avoid Being Caught in the Middle

Nursing home providers have been subject to increased scrutiny by the Pennsylvania Department of Health since the implementation of the revised state nursing home regulations. Additionally, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services has issued a proposed rule seeking to establish minimum nurse staffing standards for nursing home providers despite the fact that many nursing homes are already struggling with staffing shortages. The plaintiff's bar is also scrutinizing the staffing levels of nursing homes as well as the results of any surveys. Now more than ever, it will be important for nursing home providers to ensure compliance with the state and federal regulatory provisions. This session will address strategies and best practices to ensure regulatory compliance and avoid cited deficiencies. The presenters will also discuss common pitfalls to avoid during the survey process as well as tips to successfully challenge cited deficiencies. The presenters will also address how an adverse survey can impact medical professional liability claims and proactive steps a provider can take to avoid adverse claims.

Learning Objectives:

- Formulate strategies and best practices to ensure regulatory compliance and avoid cited deficiencies.
- Discuss common pitfalls to avoid during the survey process as well as tips to successfully challenge cited deficiencies.
- Examine the impact of an adverse survey on medical professional liability claims and proactive steps a provider can take to avoid adverse claims.

*Tanya Daniels Harris, Esq.
Senior Counsel and Co-Chair, Senior Care
Saxton & Stump*

*Kimberly A. Selemba, Esq.
Senior Counsel
Saxton & Stump*

*C. Lynn Ruppberger-Swisher, PhD, MBA, RN, NHA, CHCQM, FAIHQ
Senior Healthcare Consultant
Saxton & Stump*

10 – 11 a.m. – General Session (1 CEU)

Preventing those Immediate Jeopardy Citations

Is there a trend of significantly more Immediate Jeopardy citations in PA? An Immediate Jeopardy citation can be a devastating blow to a nursing facility affecting your care reputation and your financial situation. It is one of the most severe survey findings for a nursing home. When a surveyor finds noncompliance, serious adverse outcomes or potential for serious outcomes, and the need for immediate action, an immediate jeopardy citation will occur. Understanding fully the Immediate Jeopardy regulation is the first step in preventing an Immediate Jeopardy situation. This presentation will dive into the top Immediate Jeopardy citations through real life examples and discuss strategies to avoid those Immediate Jeopardy situations and maintaining regulatory compliance.

*Annette Sanders, MSN, RN, CLNC, IP, QCP, RAC-CT
Senior Consultant
LW Consulting, Inc.*