

Expanding the World of Possibilities for Aging



*In-Depth*

January 11, 2011

CONNECT



*A weekly broadcast of fiscal, policy and regulatory news & analysis as it affects providers of senior housing, care and services.*

## Top Stories

### January 4, 2012 Issue of *In-Depth* Available Online

Missed an issue? Want to review a piece of news or regulation? Stay current with all of the regulatory, legislative and fiscal news & analysis from Aging Services of Washington: [Click/Bookmark this link.](#)

For assistance, contact [Julie Martin](#).

### Member Q & A: Caregiver Training & Background Checks

Many members have been asking clarifying questions about the new laws for home care aides, formerly known as caregivers, as they contemplate compliance requirements for new hires and existing employees of assisted living, adult family homes and home care. This is a comprehensive compilation of the topics discussed with members to date:

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### HUD's Affirmative Fair Housing Marketing Plan Updated

Please note that HUD's [Form 935-2a](#) was updated in December, 2011 and must be used for the submission of all Affirmative Fair Housing Marketing Plans until further notice. Contact [jmartin@agingwa.org](mailto:jmartin@agingwa.org) for information.

### Aging Services of Washington Posts 2012 Legislative Session Advocacy Briefs

Aging Services of Washington is pleased to share our 2012 legislative introduction and [Advocacy Briefs](#) of January 6, 2012. As you know, the regular Legislative Session began Monday, January 9, and we trust you will find these documents useful as together, we continue our advocacy for seniors and their housing, care and service providers. Contact [jmartin@agingwa.org](mailto:jmartin@agingwa.org) for assistance or additional information.

### Legislative Rally Day February 1, 2012

Join invited guests and Aging Services staff for the latest on the state's budget, legislative progress to date, and an update on the areas we need YOUR advocacy efforts. Contact [Cassi Meritt](#) should you need additional information or assistance. [Register](#) now - this is always a popular event for providers and residents.

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## Apply For A Qualis Health Award Of Excellence

It is that time of year again when the applications for the Qualis Health Awards for Excellence are being requested. This is your chance to share how a program or process you have developed addresses the three broad aims of the Advancing Excellence program: Better Healthcare (for individuals); Better Health (for populations); and Reduced Costs Through Improvement.

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## Friday Legislative Update Conference Calls Begin This Week On Jan. 13

Don't forget! Aging Services hosts a member call-in each Friday afternoon during legislative session from 3:00-3:30 pm for Nursing Homes issues, and then again from 3:45-4:15 pm for Assisted Living topics. Contact [Paul Montgomery](#) or [Julie Martin](#) for access numbers and further assistance.

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## New Interpretative Statement Issued: Filling Medication Organizers

Registered nurses and licensed practical nurses may fill customized patient medication packages (e.g. 'medisets', medication organizers) ONLY under the following conditions:

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## State News

### What Qualifies As 'Active Practice' For Nursing Continuing Competency Requirements?

The Washington State Nursing Commission will be reviewing this issue at its January 20, 2012 meeting due to the unexpected number of questions they are receiving from nurses inquiring about compliance with the new requirement. Contact [bblachly@agingwa.org](mailto:bblachly@agingwa.org) for additional information.

## Federal News

### New Guidance Issued For Home Health Agencies

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has issued a [new Survey and Certification Letter](#) updating the guidance on home health agency (HHA) certification when there is a change of ownership.

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### Enforcement Delayed – Nursing Home Upgrade To Version 5010, ICD 10

The Version 5010 deadline was on **January 1, 2012**; however, because of the [90-day enforcement discretion period](#) for all HIPAA covered entities upgrading to Version 5010 (ASC X12 Version 5010), the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) will not initiate enforcement action until **April 1, 2012**.

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### Obama Administration Recommending Greater Coordination Among Federal Rental Housing Programs

Just released December 31, 2011 is a document outlining 10 areas of concern and proposed alignment actions, one of which is seeking greater harmonization among the agencies to address accessibility for people with disabilities, local opposition to the development of affordable housing, systemic patterns of discrimination, discrimination against voucher holders, and inconsistent application of the requirement to affirmatively further fair housing, particularly in the LIHTC program.

Read about the remaining 9 areas identified in the [full report](#).

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## **REAC Questions Of The Month**

An excellent [resource](#) for those of you preparing for a REAC inspection, or just want to keep up with the latest interpretations HUD's inspectors use when scoring your properties.

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## **Extension Of Exceptions Process For Medicare Therapy Caps**

With Congress' action of December 23, 2011, the exceptions process for outpatient therapy caps has been extended for two months.

Contact [Paul Montgomery](#) for additional information.

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Your feedback is important to us.

Should you have questions, comments or would like assistance with any of the issues discussed in this email, please contact Julie Martin, Director of Senior Living & Community Services at [jmartin@agingwa.org](mailto:jmartin@agingwa.org)

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