



Expanding the World of Possibilities for Aging



In-Depth

November 16, 2011

CONNECT



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

Top Stories

Caregiver Training Information Scheduled

Join DSHS and DOH for a 3 hour webinar outlining the changes coming to caregiver training and certification regulations as a result of Initiative 1163. Mark your calendar for one of the three optional dates (all will be held from 9:00am - 12:00 noon): November 29, December 9 and December 14.

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Construction Review And CON Propose Fee Increases

The Department of Health, Certificate of Need Unit and Construction Review Services has provided Aging Services with a pre-rule filing briefing on proposed fee increases.

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CMS Approves SNA State Plan Amendment

Nursing Facility Safety Net Assessment approved:

By letter dated 10/25/11, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) National Institutional Reimbursement Team (NIRT) notified Washington's Healthcare Authority (HCA) that they approved Washington State Plan Amendment (SPA) 11-009.

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QIS Suspends CMS Implementation In Some States

CMS has notified some states that the 'future implementation of the QIS process has been suspended until further notice due to budget cutbacks at CMS'. LeadingAge has been further informed that "There is a temporary delay, because of some technological and training issues that have been identified by some states and regions...

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State News

Pay For Performance Stakeholder Meeting

On 10/27/11, the department convened a meeting of stakeholders to discuss the Legislative mandate found in ESSB5581, section 21, that the department report to the legislature by December 15, 2011, on the design of a system of skilled nursing facility quality incentive payments. Adopting incentive payments linked to certain quality indicators is also known as pay for performance (P4P).

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Boarding Home/Home Care & Health Caregiver Requirements in Effect January 7, 2012

Federal News

New HUD Deputy Assistant Secretary Appointed

Carol Galante, Acting Assistant Secretary for Housing and Federal Housing Commissioner has just announced that President Obama and Secretary Donovan have appointed Marie Head for the position of Deputy Assistant Secretary in the Office of Multifamily Housing Programs.

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Informal Senior Caregivers Receive Additional Help From New Senate Bill

Senior caregivers who are not traditionally trained get help from new senate bill.

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CMS Issues Interpretive Guidance On Smoking

Nursing homes reminded of need for adequate supervision under F323 re smoking safety.

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News Briefs

Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) for 2012

Monthly Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits for more than 60 million Americans will increase 3.6 percent in 2012, the Social Security Administration announced today.

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Legislative Rally Day Set For February 1, 2012

Mark your calendars and alert your residents.

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HUD FY 2012 Fair Market Rents Released

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Introducing Aging Services New Website

We know you'll like our new look and the ease in which you'll be able to locate news and information. It's the same web address. Let us know how you like it.

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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

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