Reimbursement Update

The MHCA Reimbursement Committee meets on a quarterly basis with Division of Medicaid staff to discuss problems and any proposed changes in Medicaid reimbursement. Some topics discussed in the past have included cost report changes, changes in the trend factor used in rate setting, problems with the Medicaid fiscal agent, and rate adjustment issues. If any facility has topics or concerns that you would like discussed at these meetings, please notify the association office of your concerns.

Each nursing facility (NF) and intermediate care facility for the mentally retarded (ICF-MR) should have received notifications of rate changes effective January 1, 2005 and April 1, 2005. The increase in the rate effective April 1, 2005 reflects the increase in the provider assessment. CMS rules allow states to implement a tax or assessment based on revenues, as long as the tax or assessment does not exceed 6% of total patient revenues for the class of facilities. In the past, Mississippi Medicaid has assessed a tax of an amount per day that did not differentiate between NF’s and ICF-MR’s. The 2005 Legislature passed a bill that allowed Medicaid to increase the provider tax from $6.00 per licensed bed per day to the maximum allowed by federal law, based on occupied bed days. Accordingly, the bed tax/assessment increased to $9.27 per occupied bed day for NF’s and to $17.90 per occupied bed day for ICF-MR’s. This will allow the state to generate additional revenue that is used as state revenue for federal matching. Each facility should have already received rate adjustments retroactive to January 1, 2005 to reflect the regular annual rate adjustment and the increase in the rate to cover the provider assessment increase effective April 1, 2005.

Effective March 14, 2005, the Division of Medicaid revised the long-term care facility cost reports. We have been informed by Margaret King at the Division of Medicaid that any amended cost reports should be filed on the forms they were originally filed. Therefore, if a cost report with a year end of 6/30/04 was originally filed on the old forms, any amendments to that cost report should be filed on the old forms.

Jamie Collier ©
Reimbursement Committee

2005 MHCA Convention Wrap Up

The MHCA 2005 Convention was a wonderful success! The success was due to the over 300 attendees and over 200 vendor representatives as well as all of our wonderful volunteers. A special thanks to David Flippin for managing the convention golf tournament from start to finish! An outstanding presentation by Amy Whitten, J.D. kicked off our opening session and we were off to a great start. During the Thursday morning session special recognition and plaques were given to each administrator in the membership who had been licensed for over 20 years, over 25 years and over 30 years.

The 30 year honorees were: Larry N. Fortenberry, Garry H. Pace, Royce Delaney, James Holland, Marvell Morgan, Glen Canty, Johnnie Walters, Jr., and James Freeman, Jr.

The 25 year honorees were: Colin Kelly Faulkner, Shirley Graham, Barbara Nance, Sharon Peacock, Ladd Hatten, Rosal Burden, Kathy Conn and Myren Hughes.

The 20 years honorees were Robert Greer, Mark Clay, Carolyn R. Wilson, Janet C. Wilson, A. D. Buffington, Jeanette M. Cain, Margaret Heggins, Joseph L. Stephens, Barbara Lenard, Elizabeth L. Sprenger, Brenda Leone, Roy Dumas, Mike Bass, Brenda Wise, Gussie L. Ashley, Patty Nester, and Deborah Spence.

In addition President Delaney presented the following special recognition awards:

- Pioneer Award – Stephen McAllily
- Founders Award – Jewel McManah
- Spirit Award – Garry Pace and Marvell Morgan

MHCA 30 yr. Honorees (left to right): James Freeman, Jr., Johnnie Walters, Larry N. Fortenberry, Royce Delaney, Garry Pace, James Holland, and Marvell Morgan

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MISSISSIPPI HEALTH CARE ASSOCIATION
VOLUME 3, ISSUE 4

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Foundation Activities at MHCA

During the recent MHCA Convention in Tunica, the Foundation had a table with pictures from Foundation activities. Also displayed on the table was the new Foundation flyer. Copies of the flyer can be downloaded from the website at www.mshca.com/foundation.htm. The flyer gives an overview of the purpose of the Foundation and has information about how to make a contribution to the Foundation. During the Business Meeting of the Mississippi Health Care Association, a Foundation DVD was shown. If you are interested in obtaining a copy of this DVD, please contact Melzana Fuller at MHCA.

The Foundation’s Cornerstone award was made during the MHCA Business Meeting. The recipient of this year’s award was Chuck Parish, Recreation Director, Bedford Care of Hattiesburg. Mr. Parish serves on the Foundation Board and has been a strong advocate for the Foundation since its inception. At the Bedford Mardi Gras Ball, Mr. Parish made information about the Foundation available to guests attending the Ball. He organized a Bike Ride in April, which was the first official fundraising activity of the Foundation. Mr. Parish is now working with choirs in the Hattiesburg area to record a gospel CD with proceeds from the sale of the CD to benefit the Foundation.

Another fundraising event was held during MHCA Convention. The Foundation sponsored a Silent Auction on the last day of Convention. Persons attending the Convention enjoyed bidding on the over 70 items that were donated for the Silent Auction. Special thanks to Jamie Collier, Aundrea Fuller, and Chuck Parish for their assistance with the Silent Auction.

Make a Memory

At MHCA Convention in Tunica, it was announced that the special dream/wish program of the Mississippi Health Care Foundation now has a name. It is the Make a Memory program. Thanks to David Flippin for submitting the winning name and for donating his monetary award back to the Foundation so that more memories can be made.

Denver Northtrip Memorial Golf Tournament

The Denver Northtrip Memorial Golf Tournament was held on May 20, 2005, at the Grenada Country. The golf tournament, which was a fundraiser for the Mississippi Health Care Foundation, was in memory of Denver Northtrip, who was involved in the long-term care profession in Mississippi for many years.

The tournament began with special presentations to Marty Northrip, widow of Denver, and Stan Northrip, Denver’s son. Mrs. Northrip was given an engraved crystal vase to commemorate the event, and Stan was given a memorial picture based on the golf tournament brochure. Hugh Franklin also presented Stan with a driver that had belonged to Mr. Northrip.

A field of 77 golfers participated in the tournament. The tournament was won by Chris Plumlee and the Plumpoint Christian Living Center golf team.

A special thanks to First Choice Medical Supply and Tommy Hixon for donating a golf GPS for the raffle. Event sponsors included: Cornerstone Bank of Senatobia (double event sponsor), First Choice Medical Supply, Glynn Beebe, Healthcare Services Group, Horne LLP, Hugh & Linda Franklin, MHCA Self Insurers Fund, Oxford Management Company, Plumpoint CLC, Preferred Care, Senatobia Convalescent Center, and Trinity Rehab. Hole sponsors were: Bay Pointe Golf Club, Golden Age, Hotel & Restaurant Supply, Kindred Pharmacy Services, Millennium Medical Products, Mississippi Valley Food Services, MS Care Center – Morton, Neshoba County Nursing Home, Nutrition Systems, Richard Alford, Royce & Steve Delaney, The Medical Market, and Tomfone Communications.

Thanks also to the volunteers who helped make the golf tournament a success: Rosemary Vail, Peggy Mingee, Angie Whittington, Kelli Hill, Joy Turner, and Joe Cokely.
Foundation Meets Medical & Personal Needs of Nursing Home Residents

The Mississippi Health Care Foundation has purchased eyeglasses for a nursing home resident and a wheelchair battery for another resident. Additional requests have recently been received by the Foundation and are being reviewed.

If a resident in your nursing home has a medical or personal need for which there is no funding source, submit an application for consideration. Grant applications are available on the website at: www.mshca.com/foundation.htm.

Mississippi Health Care Foundation Inaugural Cruise: On May 18, 2005, about 40 nursing home residents and accompanying staff set sail aboard the Friendship II on the Ross Barnett Reservoir. The Friendship II is a double decker party boat operated by Catholic priest, Father Balsar. This was the inaugural event of the Foundation’s dream program for nursing home residents.

The residents and staff enjoyed cruising the Reservoir for about 3 hours while dancing to CDs of big band music, having box lunches, and visiting with each other. It was a great outing for all involved.
Medicare Part D Prescription Drug Benefit Coverage: The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) is launching an educational campaign to keep nursing home facility staffs fully informed on developments concerning implementation of the new Medicare Part D Prescription Drug Benefit. CMS will utilize the MDS Communication System to reach out directly to each nursing home in the nation with helpful information on the new Part D benefit. For more information about the CMS effort, contact Susan Feeney at sfeeney@ahca.org.

AHCA will offer an interactive webinar entitled Medicare Part D Implementation: What Long Term Care Providers Need to Know. This educational webinar will be held on Thursday, July 28, 2005, through AHCA’s new Long Term Care Learning Online website. Registration for the webinar is now available at www.ahca.org/education/.

Survey Guidance for Incontinence and Catheter Requirements: On April 14, 2005, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) released new surveyor guidance in State Operations Manual (SOM) Appendix PP for incontinence and catheters. In creating the new guidance, CMS collapsed current F tags F315 and F316 into one tag, F315. The text of the guidance is marked “Advance” because it went into effect on June 27, 2005. CMS does not expect to make content changes when it issues the final guidance.


Off-Label Use of Atypical Antipsychotics Linked to Increased Mortality in Elderly: The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has issued a public health advisory to warn healthcare providers, patients and patient caregivers against the off-label use of atypical antipsychotic medications for the treatment of dementia-related behavioral disorders in the elderly due to an increased risk of mortality. The warning was based on an analysis of data information from 17 placebo-controlled, 10-week trials showing that use of olanzapine, aripiprazole, risperidone, and quetiapine in 5,105 elderly patients with dementia-related behavioral disorders was associated with an increased risk of mortality compared with placebo (4.5% vs. 2.6%). Most deaths appeared to be related to cardiovascular (e.g., heart failure, sudden death) or infectious (e.g., pneumonia) causes. Because of the 1.6 to 1.7 times increase in mortality risk was linked to medications from all three classes of atypical antipsychotic medications, it is considered by the FDA to be a class effect.

The advisory therefore applies to all atypical antipsychotics, including aripiprazole (Abilify, made by Otsuka Pharmaceutical Co.); olanzapine (Zyprexa, made by Eli Lilly & Co.); quetiapine (Seroquel, made by AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals LP); risperidone (Risperdal, made by Janssen Pharmaceuticals); clozapine (Clozaril, made by Novartis Pharmaceutical Corp.); and ziprasidone (Geodon, made by Pfizer, inc.). Fluoxetine HCl plus olanzapine capsules (Symbyax, made by Eli Lilly & Co.), indicated for the treatment of depressive episodes associated with bipolar disorder, is also included in the advisory. Older antipsychotic medications are currently under review by the FDA to determine whether their use is in this population is similarly associated with an increased risk of mortality.

Atypical antipsychotic medications are approved by the FDA for the treatment of schizophrenia and mania only. The FDA advised healthcare providers to revise their treatment of elderly patients receiving these drugs as therapy for dementia-related behavioral disorders.

Healthcare professionals are encouraged to report adverse events related to use of atypical antipsychotic medications to the FDA’s MedWatch program by phone at 1-800-FDA-1088, by fax at 1-800-FDA-0178, online at http://www.fda.gov/medwatch, or by mail to 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20852-9787.

Accidents (F323) and Supervision to Prevent Accidents (F324): The American Health Care Association (AHCA) has been asked to comment on draft guidance for surveying the requirements that govern requirements at Accidents (F323) and Supervision to Prevent Accidents (F324). The guidance applies to a wide range of actual and potential accidents and hazards such as falls, elopement, fire and electrical safety, medical devices, physical restraints, bed rail entrapment, chemicals and water temperature. AHCA would like your input to assist in developing comments to CMS.

To review the draft guidance, go to the Members Only section of the Mississippi Health Care Association website at www.msha.com and look for the link entitled Accidents and Supervision to Prevent Accidents. In this file are two attachments. Attachment A contains the following:

- Cover letter from Thomas Hamilton
- Tips for reviewers
- Scope and severity grid in current use
- List of expert panel names and biographies

Attachment B contains the following materials for comment:

- Guidance to Surveyors (Interpretive Guidelines)
- Investigative Protocol
- V. Deficiency Categorization (i.e., Severity Guidance)

If you have any comments on the draft guidance, please send them to Janet Myder at jmyder@ahca.org with a copy to Dianne De La Mare at ddmare@ahca.org no later than Thursday, July 28, 2005.
Board of Nursing Announcements

The Board of Nursing is advising all healthcare employers to verify the privilege to practice nursing in Mississippi with the Mississippi Board of Nursing when hiring or maintaining a nurse with a Mississippi License or pursuant to a privilege to practice under a multistate license. Mississippi licenses may be verified online at www.msbn.state.ms.us. The Board requests that the verification of the privilege be done by emailing the nurse’s name, state of licensure, license number from the other state and the last 4 digits of the social security number to info@msbn.state.ms.us. Please do not include the entire social security number in the email. As of July 1, a fee for verification will be reinstated.

The Board of Nursing is pleased to announce a new service for healthcare agencies, group online verification with notification capabilities, which should be available beginning July 1, 2005. Healthcare providers may subscribe to the service annually. Once the subscription process is completed and the nurse employees’ license numbers are input the provider will receive electronic notification when the status of the license changes, including renewal. Also, beginning July 1, 2005, the Board of Nursing will issue a wallet card and small certificate to individuals obtaining their first license, reinstating a license or renewing a license during the 2005 and 2006 licensure cycles. The wallet card and certificate will contain the individual’s name, license number, date of original licensure and level of licensure. The wallet card and small certificate will not contain information concerning expiration date, disciplinary status or multistate status. Licensure status verification will be done online.

Why should a provider subscribe?
- System will provide license verification information without phone calls or written requests.
- Subscribers will be notified in a timely manner when a license status changes including renewal.
- Risk of individuals working without proper authorization by Board of Nursing will be decreased.

What does the provider need to do?
- Select a level of service.
- Submit the registration application along with payment of the annual fee.
- The registration application will be available online at www.msbn.state.ms.us beginning June 1, 2005.
- Follow the directions for input of employed license numbers into the website.

What are the levels of service and the fees?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Level I</td>
<td>Free</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level II</td>
<td>$800.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level III</td>
<td>$2,000.00</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Please note: Level I includes Level II and Level III.

Licensure status verification will be done online.

Health Facilities Licensure and Certification Update

* The Fire Safety and Construction Unit appreciates facilities’ cooperation in providing us copy of facility emergency preparedness plans. We have approved and forwarded to the agency’s Emergency Preparedness and Response Division 118 nursing home plans and 74 personal care home plans as of this month. Dwayne Madison and staff continue to work with many facilities to ensure that required information is included in each plan. It is our hope that no facility will have to implement their plan due to fire, weather or man-made disasters.

* The RAI Manual Version 2.0 Update was posted on CMS’ web site May 23, and is effective June 15, 2005. Please do not use the March 2005 RAI Manual revision which was posted to the web site in April. The revision that is in effect inadvertently omitted the following text on page 3-184, section P1a: “o. Hospice Care - The resident is identified as being in a hospice program for terminally ill persons where an array of services is necessary for the palliation and management of terminal illness and related conditions. The hospice must be licensed by the state provider and certified under the Medicare program as a hospice provider.” Also, Section W items have been added to MDS all Forms and to the MDS Medicare PPS Assessment Form. Section W of the forms will be effective October 1, 2005. You may access this information at: www.cms.gov/quality/mds20/default.asp

* We have received advance issuance of revised Interpretive Guidelines for F501, Medical Director. CMS will issue the final in November 2005 to allow surveyors to be trained in the new guidance and to permit facilities and medical directors to study the significantly revised and expanded guidance. There is no change in the regulatory language of F501, only new guidance, an Investigative Protocol, and Severity guidance. A facility will be found in compliance with F501 if surveyors find evidence of:
  - a licensed physician is designated as the medical director; and
  - the physician is performing the functions of the position; and
  - the medical director provides input and helps the facility develop, review and implement resident care policies, based on current clinical standards; and
  - the medical director assists the facility in the coordination of medical care and services in the facility.

The advance issuance document may be obtained at: www.cms.hhs.gov/medicaid/survey-cert/letters.asp

* We have had a number of new surveyors to join us, and sadly for us, a few to retire. The Long Term Care survey staff now includes: Judy Alexander, Karen Baker, Judy Hughes, Cynthia Hunter, Ruby Litton, Mike Luckett, Roselyn Powell, Roger Smith, James Sullivan, Linda Ward, and Ordenia Howze-Warkie. In training are: Cecilia Griffin, Jeanie Thomas, Arthur Williams, Janet Johnston, Gail Townsend, Ruby Wallace, and Constance Tate. The Complaint unit surveyors include: Linda Dickinson, Sherry McElwain, Donna Wombo, Sherrie Heinrich, Annie Allison, Cheryl Jones, Vickie Lewis (trainee), and Dianne Wright (trainee).

Karen Selestak ©
Director, Division of Licensure and Certification
MSDH
Beginning July 1, 2005, Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNFs), Hospices, Home Health Agencies and Comprehensive Outpatient and Rehabilitation Facilities with Medicare beneficiaries will be required to notify those beneficiaries of their right to a new expedited review process when providers anticipate that Medicare coverage of services will end. (See 69 Fed. Reg. 69252 at: http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/06jun20041800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2004/pdf/04-26133.pdf.)

On April 29, 2005, two notices associated with the implementation of these expedited reviews were published in the Federal Register – the Notice of Medicare Provider Non-Coverage (Generic Notice) and the Detailed Explanation of Non-Coverage (Detailed Notice). Copies of the notices, as well as the instructions for using them, can be found on CMS’ Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) webpage located at www.cms.hhs.gov/regulations/pra. Scroll down to the two entries dated April 25, 2005, to view these notices.

CMS anticipates that the standardized expedited review notices will be approved in their final forms later in June 2005. Given the short timeframe between approval of standardized notices and implementation of the new review process, the agency has instructed providers and suppliers to use either the model notices now available on the PRA website or the newly standardized notices when the new notice and review requirements take effect on July 1, 2005. As of October 1, 2005, providers must use the new standardized notices exclusively.

Providers have historically used Advance Beneficiary Notice (ABN) to inform beneficiaries of impending service terminations. For the most part, the need for ABNs in these situations is eliminated by the new expedited review procedures. However, the ABNs will still serve a valuable role under other circumstances, according to CMS. CMS is currently evaluating the SNF ABN and the accompanying instructions in light of the new expedited review process, as well as continuing in its efforts to implement a new, simplified SNF ABN. Until the new SNF ABN is made final, SNF providers should continue to use either the SNF ABN or one of the five SNF denial letters in situations where the expedited review notice is not appropriate. You can obtain copies of the five SNF letters at www.cms.hhs.gov/medicare/bni/snf_denial_letters.pdf.

One additional note, according to American Health Quality Association, the QIOs will be involved in the expedited review process. MHCA will update you on this matter as we obtain more information.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services announces the following plans for transitioning to the National Provider Identifier (NPI) in the Fee-for Service Medicare Program:

- Between May 23, 2005 and January 2, 2006, claims processing systems will accept an existing legacy Medicare number and reject as unprocessable any claim that includes only an NPI.
- Beginning January 3, 2006, and through October 1, 2006, systems will accept an existing legacy Medicare number or an NPI as long as it is accompanied by an existing legacy Medicare number.
- Beginning October 2, 2006, and through May 22, 2007, systems will accept a legacy Medicare number and/or an NPI. This will allow for 6-7 months of provider testing before only an NPI will be accepted by the Medicare Program on May 23, 2007.
- Beginning May 23, 2007, systems will only accept an NPI.

For additional information, to complete an NPI application, and to access educational tools, visit https://nppes.cms.hhs.gov on the web.

MHCA Board of Governors

MHCA would like to thank outgoing Area I Vice-President Stan Maynard and welcome incoming Area I Vice-President Larry N. Fortenberry. All other MHCA Board members remain the same.

MCAL Board Recent Election

- President: Greg McKissick, Dogwood Plantation of Fulton
- Vice president: Prasant Desai, Twin Oaks at Pass Christian
- Secretary: Becky Adams, Graceland of Grenada
- Treasurer: Joy Allen, Wesley Meadows Retirement Community
- Area I Representative: Amy Brame, Trinity Place Healthcare Center
- Area II Representative: Joy Lehman, Washington Care Center
- Area III Representative: Anne Thompson, Old Ladies/Willard Bond Home
- Area IV Representative: Hilda Hollis, Magnolia Regional Assisted Living Facility
- Area V Representative: Robert Greer, Heritage House Retirement Center
- Area VI Representative: Misty Linder, Windham House of Hattiesburg

Also serving on the MCAL Board are past presidents: Jay Shannon, Dogwood Plantation, and Eleta Grimmett, Indywood.

Thank you to outgoing members who have served on the Board. These include: Don Turner, Dogwood Plantation of New Albany; Kay Higginbotham, Riggs Manor Retirement Community; and Johnnie Walters, McComb Nursing and Rehab. Center.
MHCA Would Like to Welcome MHCA Would Like to Welcome MHCA Would Like to Welcome

New Members:

- Mississippi Health Care Association
- 114 Marketridge Drive
- Ridgeland, MS 39157
- Vanessa P. Henderson
  - Executive Director
  - vanessa@mshca.com
- Tres' Robertson
  - Operations Manager
  - tres@mshca.com
- Melzana Fuller
  - Director of Special Projects
  - melzana@mshca.com
- Heather Bradley
  - Education Coordinator
  - heather@mshca.com

MHCA Board of Governors

- Steve Delaney, President
- Tripp Francis, First Vice President
- Eric Holland, Treasurer
- Chance Becnel, Secretary
- Larry Fortenberry, Area I Vice-President
- Marvell Morgan, Area II Vice-President
- Bruce Kelly, Area III Vice-President
- Gary Pace, Area IV Vice-President
- Byron Hooppaw, Area V Vice President
- Aundrea Fuller, Area VI Vice President
- Thomas E. Hill, Past President
- Ken Beebe, Past President
- Roy A. Dumas, Past President

MCAL Board

- Greg McKissick, President
- Prasant Desai, Vice President
- Becky Adams, Secretary
- Joy Allen, Treasurer
- Amy Brame, Area I Representative
- Joy Lehman, Area II Representative
- Anne Thompson, Area III Representative
- Hilda Hollis, Area IV Representative
- Robert Greer, Area V Representative
- Misty Linder, Area VI Representative
- Jay Shannon, Past President
- Eleta Grimmett, Past President

Ridgeland, MS 39157

1 1 4 Marketridge Drive

Mississippi Health Care Association

MHCA Would Like to Welcome New Members:

- Union County Health & Rehabilitation Center
- Magnolia Personal Care Home

Associate Members

- Brunini, Grantham, Grower & Hewes, PLLC
- AmeriCare Property Investors, Inc.
- McCumber, Inclan, Daniels, Valdez, Buntz, and Ferrera, P.A.
- Providence Hospice, LLC

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