MHCA Nursing Home Spotlight

Vicksburg Trace Haven was built in the early 1970s as a 120 bed nursing facility. Owned by Vicksburg Partners, L.P., the facility is located just a few blocks off I-20 in a beautiful setting on one of Vicksburg’s many hills. The wagon-wheel shaped facility has the benefit of one nursing station that can observe activity down each of its six hallways.

The facility has just completed a recent refurbishment including new paint and wallpaper throughout and rebuilding of the nursing station. New draperies, linens and furniture for the resident rooms were also purchased. The renovations are just the beginning of implementation of new, progressive ideas for the facility.

The facility therapy department has been redecorated in an exciting “beach” theme including a beautiful sunset, dolphins, flamingos, palm trees and parrots painted on the walls. The Medicare census for this facility has more than doubled in the last year, to now averaging over 20 per day. Who wouldn’t want to exercise to Hawaiian music in this tropical paradise?

A new wellness program, directed by atherapist, combines Activities, Therapy and Restorative Nursing and is designed to promote the theme that “every day of life counts.” Exercise classes, specialized crafts, games, gardening and other events have broadened the standard Activity program from just a social event to a program designed to improve physical and cognitive functioning.

Vicksburg Trace Haven has faced the staffing, census and survey challenges that most facilities have faced in recent years. With continuing implementation of progressive ideas, it hopes to alter the negative public opinion of nursing facilities and maintain the status of a facility of choice in the community.

MHCA / AHCA Activity Calendars

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On May 2, 2003, Governor Musgrove invited the Mississippi Health Care Association Board, Member Facilities, and residents to view the signing of his ‘Proclamation’ stating that May 11 through May 17, 2003 will be recognized as National Nursing Home Week. The proclamation salutes the residents of our nursing facilities and the dedicated staff providing care and supportive services that enable the highest quality of life for our loved ones. This year’s National Nursing Home Week theme is “Reflections of a Lifetime,” beginning Mother’s Day, May 11, 2003. Governor Muagrove urges all citizens to honor and serve the individuals who laid the foundations of Mississippi by participating in this year’s National Nursing Home Week observance at one of our state’s many nursing facilities.

MHCA Annual Convention Schedule

Beau Rivage, Biloxi Mississippi - Reservations 1.800.567.6667

Tuesday, May 27, 2003
11:00 am - 2:00 pm Registration
2:30 - 3:30 pm Opening Session
w/Robert Ian
4:00 - 6:00 pm Trade Show
7:00 pm - 12:00 am Dinner and Dance with ‘Meet the Press’

Wednesday, May 28, 2003
7:30 am - 2:00 pm Golf Registration at Shell Landing in Gautier
Tee time at 9:00 am - OR -
8:00 am - 2:00 pm Fishing Expedition at the Beau Rivage Marina - OR -
9:00 am - 2:00 pm Shopping and Antiquing in Be St. Louis
4:00 - 7:00 pm: Trade Show & President’s Reception

This evening reserved for you - FREE TIME!

Thursday, May 29, 2003
7:00 - 8:15 am Breakfast and Welcome
8:00 - 11:00 am Delegate Check-in
8:45 - 11:00 am Education: Department of Health Licensure and Certification; Division of Medicaid
11:00 am - 2:00 pm Candidates’ Luncheon, Hosting Candidates for Governor, Lt Governor, and Attorney General
2:30 - 5:00 pm Education: Information and Quality Healthcare: Insurance; LTC Business
6:00 - 11:00 pm Karaoke Night with Senator Tim “Elvis” Johnson Ence

Friday, May 30, 2003
7:00 - 8:30 am Breakfast
9:00 am - 12:00 pm Closing Session with Humorist Dr. Jerry Patterson

Convention Dates May 27 - 30 2003

MHCA / AHCA Annual Convention

Mississippi Health Care Association

Volume 1, Issue 3 - May 2003

Mississippi Health Care Association

WE’RE ON THE WEB www.mshca.com
Infection Control

Facilities should make sure their infection control policies are in place and current. Facilities should follow the new ODM guidelines for control of nosocomial infections.

Changes in Recent Legislation

MDHS coordinators should watch for the many changes in the updated manual. For example, MDS Section J1c - Indicators of fluid intake has been changed from 2500 ml to reflect current practice standards.

Caregivers’ for Patient Rights - John L. Maxey, II (Maxey, Wann PLLC)

MHCA Staff or one of the Council members.

MSDH, Division of Licensure & Certification - Karen Solstad, Director

In early April, Richard Yuran, Complaint Unit Director, mailed a letter to all licensed healthcare facilities within the state. The letter contains a list of specific information our Complaint Unit needs to receive in writing from facilities with seven to five years of experience. As a result of your input, the MHCA will be developing future educational opportunities that will focus on nursing needs, including continuing education credit, as well as placing emphasis on CNA needs, including training and a CNA newsletter. The Council also wants to develop an ongoing dialogue with the Department of Health’s Licensure & Certification, Medicaid, and IQH by inviting their participation in future Council meetings. If you would like to submit information for the Council to consider, please forward it to MHCA staff or one of the Council members.

The conclusion in the recent OIG report states that nursing homes have three barriers that impede QA committees. 1. lack knowledge of how to use available information; 2. staff shortages; 3. turnover.

Caregivers’ for Patient Rights - John L. Maxey, II (Maxey, Wann PLLC)

The legislation finished its business in early April. This was the last session before elections and a new legislature will convene in January 2004. There was little expansion of programs as this legislature wrestled with the severe shortfall of tax monies, and programs already in law. There were two notable modifications of current laws which will affect nursing home operations.

House Bill 1077 clarified the procedures for requiring employee criminal history checks for nursing home employees. Beginning July 1, 2004, all new employees of nursing homes will be required to have criminal background checks including fingerprints. If the criminal history record check discloses a felony conviction, the applicant will most likely be disqualified from employment.

A current employee of a nursing home will be required to sign an affidavit that states he/she has not been convicted of a felony. If the record is clean, he/she will be pro

HIPAA Reminder

Effective April 14, 2003, facilities must include a copy of their notice of privacy practices in the admission packet. Residents should sign a form acknowledging that they have received the notice.

MSD Nursing Council

The inaugural meeting of the MSD Nursing Council was held on April 17, 2003 with Yvorone Russell, Patty Kees, Joel Greenwood, Betty McMillan, Jennifer Helmsman, Oswald Hennington, and Liz Holloway representing the myriad of nursing needs of all nursing facilities within the state. With the MHCA seeking input from nurses on what it can do to establish and promote issues related to nurses and nursing care for member facilities, the Council identified the “top 10 issues” that needed addressing, as follows: as

Part I: Therapy Cap

The caps are scheduled to be implemented July 1 for claims related on or after this date. Go to www.medicare.gov to obtain Program Memorandum AB-03-018 for complete details.

Part II: Therapy Cap

The conclusion in the recent OIG report states that nursing homes have three barriers that impede QA committees. 1. lack knowledge of how to use available information; 2. staff shortages; 3. turnover.

Rising acuity levels; scope of practice; staff retention; training for nurses; CNA training; criminal background checks/fingerprinting; MDS training; care plans; quality measures/indicators; case mix from the Mississippi level/perspective; and attracting nurses into long-term care facilities. As a result of your input, the MHCA will be developing future educational opportunities that will focus on nursing needs, including continuing education credit, as well as placing emphasis on CNA needs, including training and a CNA newsletter. The Council also wants to develop an ongoing dialogue with the Department of Health’s Licensure & Certification, Medicaid, and IQH by inviting their participation in future Council meetings. If you would like to submit information for the Council to consider, please forward it to MHCA staff or one of the Council members.

Important Contacts at your Fingertips

Get the full list at http://www.mshca.com/members/contacts.htm

404-562-7433 / 404-562-7540-fax

There are many changes from the current 2.0 version. CMS plans to have the final 3.0 ready by the end of 2004.

Part II: Therapy Cap

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