FEATURE ARTICLE

Administration Announces Plan for COVID-19 Booster Shots in Late September

- NAHC: Providers of care in the home need access to COVID-19 booster vaccines
- Full information on the NAHC COVID-19 Vaccine and Resources page

The Department of Health & Human Services (HHS) announced today the Biden Administration has developed a plan to begin offering COVID-19 booster shots this fall, subject to an independent evaluation and determination of the safety and effectiveness of a third dose of the Pfizer and Moderna mRNA vaccines, and CDC’s Advisory Committee on Immunization
Practices (ACIP) issuing booster dose recommendations based on a thorough review of the evidence.

The National Association for Home Care & Hospice has strongly communicated to HHS how important it is that shipments of booster vaccines be sent directly to home care providers, so that safe and efficient booster vaccinations of the elderly and disabled - the most at-risk population - can take place in the home. NAHC will continue to make this case and we will keep our members up to date on this critically important topic.

“We look forward to working with the Administration to get vaccines to a very vulnerable group of individuals who, in many cases, are homebound and cannot otherwise secure the life-saving Covid vaccines and booster shots,” said NAHC President Bill Dombi, in response to the news.

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TOP STORIES

August 2021 Private Duty Data Point: Office Staff Turnover & Benefits

What happens when you hire the wrong office staff? To name a few, a poor hire can result in loss of clients, higher caregiver turnover, and ultimately a loss of profits. What happens when you hire the right office staff? The right hire can generate new ideas and solutions, create company stability, and bring peace of mind to the owner and upper management. Take time to measure your office staff turnover, get their feedback, assess their benefits, and make changes today to get the right people in the right seats in your office.
To get your full copy of the 2021 Study, visit benchmarking.homecarepulse.com and use the code NAHC25% for 25% off.

CLICK THRU TO SEE THE DATA POINT

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Creating a New Generation of Home Care Leaders with the NAHC Mentoring Program

The National Association for Home Care and Hospice (NAHC) is pleased to announce the launch of a new membership benefit, the NAHC Mentoring Program. This program seeks to pair individuals at the early and middle growth stage of their careers with current established leaders of the home care and community-based service industry for a structured mentorship with the goal of fostering involvement and growth in the NAHC Community through:

- Networking
- Navigating Conferences
Committee Engagement
Leadership Development
Advocacy Efforts

The NAHC Mentoring Program is a great new opportunity for up-and-coming industry professionals to learn how to navigate and excel in the Association and how best to use membership to benefit their career. For established industry veterans, the NAHC Mentoring Program is a great opportunity for established leaders to give back to the industry and lay a strong foundation for the next generation of home care and hospice executives.

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Fight to Expand Access to Home Care

Home care has long been a safe and effective alternative to care in an institutional setting. Medicare reform to provide viable, extended care services at home for patients who otherwise have only one choice, the Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) benefit, is long overdue.

The risks and limitations of SNFs has been vividly demonstrated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Beyond the pandemic crisis, extended care at home also makes sense. Nearly 33% of patients who go to SNFs have identical frailty scores to those who receive care at home. The main difference in these patients is that they lack access to extended caregiver services and certain other supplemental health care supports.

GO HERE to tell Congress to support Choose Home Care Act of 2021
The **Choose Home Care Act of 2021**, S. 2562, is a cost-effective and patient preferred home-based extended care benefit as a supplement to the existing home health benefit that supports patients to leave the hospital and recover at home with a mix of expanded skilled nursing, therapy, personal care, telehealth services and more. Eligible patients can choose to recover at home in a safe home environment with sufficient care tailored to meet their individual needs and reduced Medicare spending.

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**Mandatory Vaccine Announcement Causes Confusion Among Home-Based Care Providers**

Outgoing New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo announced Monday that all of the state’s health care workers are now required to be vaccinated against the COVID-19 virus by Sept. 27.

The announcement specifically listed nursing home, "adult care," long-term care facility and hospital workers as those who must receive vaccinations by that date. While adult care could pertain to them, home care and home health workers were not directly mentioned in the announcement.

That, in turn, has created confusion for hundreds of New York’s home-based care organizations.

**READ THE REST @ Home Health Care News**
The World May Never Reach Herd Immunity Against COVID-19

As Covid-19 surged last year, governments worldwide touted the hope of "herd immunity," a promised land where the virus stopped spreading exponentially because enough people were protected against it. That’s now looking like a fantasy.

The thinking was that the pandemic would ebb and then mostly fade once a chunk of the population, possibly 60% to 70%, was vaccinated or had resistance through a previous infection. But new variants like delta, which are more transmissible and been shown to evade these protections in some cases, are moving the bar for herd immunity near impossibly high levels.

81% Of Health Systems Plan to Increase Investment in Care at Home, According to New Current Health Research

New research – based on a survey of 250 health system decision makers – found that 89% of health systems expanded their use of remote care
technology in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and 81% expect their organization to increase those investments in the next 12 months.

While the pandemic has catalyzed care at home programs, health system leaders report a growing desire to care for more higher-acuity patients in their own homes. Survey respondents indicated that remote care has delivered the key benefits of reduced hospital admissions (69%), and improved patient (63%) and provider (62%) satisfaction. Further, remote care is helping health systems address the long-term challenges of scaling to care for more patients with limited clinical staff.

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Home Care Industry Update

- Thursday, August 26, 2021
- Noon to 2 PM Eastern
- Register now

Please join Polsinelli, the National Association for Home Care & Hospice (NAHC), and Home Care Association of America (HCAOA) for a legal update for the Home-Based Care Industry (home health, home care and hospice providers). We will discuss the latest legislative and regulatory developments, including an update on:
the new OSHA Emergency Temporary Standard and its application to home care providers,
Biden’s Executive Order seeking to ban non-compete agreements, and the status of the PRO Act.

We will also update the audience on the sweeping changes proposed by the Biden Administration designed to make it easier for labor unions to organize the home-based care workforce and provide existing unions with more leverage than ever at the bargaining table. We will also provide practical, business-minded strategies to maintain a direct relationship with your workforce, reduce turnover and improve your employee engagement and satisfaction scores. Finally, we will discuss best practices for educating your workforce about union organizing and maintaining an issue free work environment.

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Emerging Legal Trends in Home Care & Hospice Part 6: Wage & Hour Law

Wednesday, September 22, 2021; 2:00-3:00pm Eastern
REGISTER FOR WEBINAR
REGISTER FOR SERIES

Please join Polsinelli Shareholder Angelo Spinola for a comprehensive overview of the most common pay practices utilized by home-based care providers that are targeted by the DOL and plaintiffs’ attorneys. This presentation will include a review of the common challenges and best practices related to live-in and extended shift
care programs, pay per visit and salary plus compensation structures for skilled clinicians, on-call, travel time, utilizing multiple pay rates and other common wage hour issues. Mr. Spinola will also review the status of the litigation seeking to reinstate the prior overtime exemptions available to home care providers and other litigation and legislative developments.

Loneliness is a Problem. How Can Home Care Deal With It?

“Loneliness is different than isolation and solitude. Loneliness is a subjective feeling where the connections we need are greater than the connections we have. In the gap, we experience loneliness. It’s distinct from the objective state of isolation, which is determined by the number of people around you.”

- Vivek Murthy, two time (and current) Surgeon General.

We have heard a lot about loneliness and social isolation, particularly during the pandemic with enforced social distancing and near imprisonment of older adults in nursing homes. Two experts on these topics, Carla Perissinotto and Ashwin Kotwal discuss this issue in a new podcast and explain:

- How loneliness and social isolation overlap and are distinct
- How common these measures of social well being are in geriatrics and palliative care
- Why we should care as clinicians
- How we can ask about them
- How we should respond to care for patients who are lonely or isolated

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RESOURCES

The Human Experience 2020: Vision for the Future of Health Care - The Beryl Institute

Littler Operational Guidelines for the Home Care Industry Amid COVID 19 - Littler Mendelson, P.C.

PDHCA Education - PDHCA Website

Private Duty Home Care at NAHC is a fully integrated service line of the National Association for Home Care & Hospice focused on Leadership, Education, Advocacy, and Innovation exclusively for the private duty home care community.

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