FEATURE ARTICLE

The Private Duty Winter Leadership Summit is February 22-24!

- What: Private Duty Winter Leadership Summit
- When: February 22-24, 2021
- Where: Sonesta Resort Hilton Head Island Hotel
- Register now!

We invite you to join us for two and half days of world-class education, networking to exchange knowledge, resources and strategies with leading industry professionals. The Summit will be held at the beautiful Sonesta Resort Hilton Head Island Hotel.

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TOP STORIES

Home Care Industry Update
NAHC urges providers to adhere to CMS mandate as industry braces for omicron

As the home care field was reeling over the fate of the federal vaccine mandate and the new threatening COVID-19 strain, the National Association for Home Care & Hospice Wednesday told providers to continue to recognize the CMS mandate.

“We are advising NAHC members to continue to undertake, in good faith, all necessary measures to be compliant with Phase 1 and Phase 2 requirements of the rule except for any steps that would have been taken with staff that are not vaccinated or subject to an exception,” NAHC said in a statement. “We further advise providers to document any barriers to compliance.”
‘Hope for the Best, Plan for the Worst’: How Providers Should Plan Around the CMS Mandate Freeze

The initial health care worker vaccine mandate laid out by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) was a cause for confusion for some home health providers when it was announced officially in early November. Now that a nationwide injunction has been issued by a federal judge with key deadlines rapidly approaching, that confusion has only intensified.

What’s more likely than the mandate completely going away, however, is an implementation delay.

Providers, Policymakers Lean on Training-and-Apprenticeship Programs to Beef Up Home-Based Care Workforce

As workforce challenges continue to plague the home-based care industry, providers and policymakers are leaning on training and apprenticeship programs to help close the gap.

In September, City College of San Francisco (CCSF), UC San Francisco (UCSF) and Homebridge, a San Francisco-based in-home care organization, teamed up on such an initiative.

Together, the three organizations formed an on-the-job training program for Homebridge workers. The program, funded by the San Francisco Office of Economic and Workforce Development and the Metta Fund, offers certified nursing assistant (CNA) certification through CCSF and links participants to on-the-job clinical training with UCSF.
Hurricane and natural disaster preparation for home care patients

Each year, hurricane season brings with it dangerous and extreme weather conditions — lashing winds, torrential downpours, power outages and floods — posing a threat to everyone in the communities affected. The risks become greater when it comes to patients who are aging and receiving care in the home.

For home care patients and those aging in place with the support of caregivers, maintaining safety and well-being becomes difficult, and threatened, during hurricane events. They often find themselves in circumstances that make them especially vulnerable to the impacts of natural disasters including social isolation, disability and a greater reliance on their providers and care teams for care services they need.

New CMS Website Will Share Innovative State Actions to Expand Medicaid HCBS

- CMS also approves earlier application for Alabama’s section 1115 demonstration to improve access to home and community-based services

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has launched a new “one-stop shop” for state Medicaid agencies and stakeholders on Medicaid.gov to advance transparency and innovation for home and community-based services. Home and community-based services allow people enrolled in Medicaid to receive services and supports in a preferred setting outside of an institution, such as in their own
home. Through this new webpage, state Medicaid agencies and stakeholders can access information about states' plans to enhance, expand, and strengthen home and community-based services across the country using new Medicaid funding made available by the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP).

Additionally, CMS has approved a new Medicaid section 1115 demonstration in Alabama, entitled the “Community Waiver Program,” to operate concurrently with a home and community-based services 1915(c) waiver. This new opportunity in the state's Medicaid program will increase access to home and community-based services, and allow the state to meet the needs of additional individuals who prefer to get long-term care services and supports in their home or community rather than an institutional setting.

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**Senior living, home most frequent destinations after hospital discharge of Medicare beneficiaries**

Assisted living communities, retirement communities and homes remain the most frequent destinations for Medicare beneficiaries after inpatient hospital stays, according to the 2021 AHHQI Home Health Chartbook from the Alliance for Home Health Quality and Innovation and the National Association for Home Care & Hospice.

The chartbook covers the 2015 to 2020 time period and found that the percentage of discharges to the community without skilled home health care, including individuals living at home as well as in assisted living facilities and retirement communities, remained relatively consistent during that time.

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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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