

# ALMDA

## News & Notes

THE SOCIETY FOR POST-ACUTE AND LONG-TERM CARE MEDICINE

WWW.ALMDA.ORG

## Special legislative session addresses Medicaid funding shortfall

*Alabamamedicine.org* (August 12, 2016)

Just a few days before the special session is set to begin, lawmakers will be faced with two prospective lottery bills, each aimed at fixing the state's ailing Medicaid budget. The competing bills could make for interesting debate.

Two weeks ago when Gov. Robert Bentley unveiled his legislation, he called it a "simple lottery." At only three pages, the proposed amendment would provide a seven-member lottery commission – appointed by the governor and confirmed by the Senate – to oversee what would be called the Alabama Lottery. All proceeds from the lottery would go to the general fund budget, yet the legislation did not include any provisions for casino gambling.

The proposal says "nothing in this amendment affects, prohibits or limits" any legal gaming in the state, including betting on horse and dog racing and "nonprofit, traditional bingo." If adopted, the amendment would put the phrase "traditional bingo" in the state Constitution for the first time, according to an article by *The Montgomery Advertiser*.

Earlier this week, Sen. Jim McClendon (R-Springfield), who intends to sponsor Gov. Bentley's legislation next week, announced his intent to introduce a second piece of legislation combining a lottery with gambling.

"I want to get the lottery issue before the people," Sen. McClendon said at a news conference Tuesday afternoon at the Alabama State House. "Let them vote and make the decision. I want to do something about sick kids that need medical care and are at risk of being underfunded."

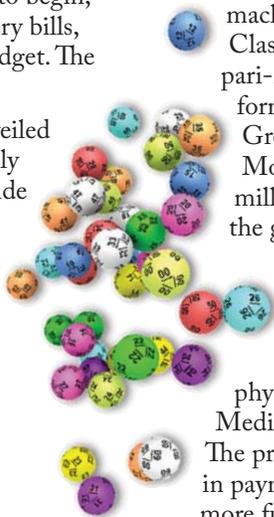
Sen. McClendon's second bill calls on the governor to

negotiate a gaming compact with the Poarch Band of Creek Indians. The bill would also allow lottery terminals – a type of machine resembling a slot machine but considered non-casino Class II gambling, like electronic bingo – and restricted to pari-mutuel betting facilities in the state, presumably the former VictoryLand in Macon County, GreeneTrack in Greene County, the Birmingham Race Course and the Mobile Greyhound Park. His bill would also earmark \$100 million for education with the rest of the proceeds going to the general fund.

At stake next week is the \$85 million shortfall left in Alabama Medicaid's budget at the end of the regular session. Monday, Aug. 1, marked the first cut to primary care physicians (pediatricians, family physicians and other physicians), which will make access to care more difficult for Medicaid patients and could force them to leave the program. The proposed cut translates to an average of 30 percent reduction in payment for basic care. Additional cuts are expected unless more funding is appropriated to Medicaid before the start of the next fiscal year.

A coalition of physicians recently took to the media to express their concerns over the cut, which is forcing them to choose between accepting fewer patients, reducing staff, and in some cases, closing their practice. Combined, these changes will mean that for most Alabamians it will be more difficult to book an appointment with a doctor of their choice at a time convenient for their schedule.

The Legislature is set to convene for the special session on Aug. 15. Legislators would have to pass a version of a lottery amendment by Aug. 24 to get it on the November ballot, where voters would decide whether or not to approve it. 🗳️



# Diversity of post-acute residents increases

[www.mcknights.com](http://www.mcknights.com)

The long-term care population has grown more diverse in age and ethnicity over recent decades, according to new research published in *JAMDA: The Journal of Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine*.

Researchers with the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine used data from the Centers of Medicare & Medicaid Services, the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission, nursing home surveys and the Nursing Home Data Compendium to identify trends in long-term care utilization and demographics.

The results, found the proportions of nursing home residents younger than 65 and those older than 85 increased 7% and 4.5%, respectively, from 1995 to 2012. The majority of residents were still between 65- and 85-years-old, researchers noted.

The number of African American and Hispanic residents has increased by 9% and 3.9%, respectively. The number of male nursing home residents grew nearly 50% from the early 1970s to 2012, although the ratio of male to female residents remained the same. The proportion of married residents also increased to 33% by 2012.

On the clinical side, the number

of nursing home residents requiring assistance with five or more activities of daily living dropped significantly between 2004 and 2012, from around half of residents to roughly a fourth.

Four of the five most common causes of preventable hospital readmissions for nursing home residents matched with their leading diagnoses in the skilled nursing setting, which researchers said reflects increasing frailty and comorbidities. The leading diagnoses in the skilled nursing settings were in the circulatory, respiratory and musculoskeletal systems. 

## Smart & Safe partners with Walgreens for medication drop boxes

[Alabamamedicine.org](http://Alabamamedicine.org)

The Smart & Safe prescription drug abuse awareness program recently partnered with Walgreens to bring awareness to medication drop boxes to allow residents to safely dispose of the unused medications.

Birmingham internist Darlene Traffanstedt, MD, was among the guest speakers at a news conference including Hoover Mayor Gary Ivey and Attorney General Luther Strange who addressed the problem of prescription drug use in Alabama.

“Young people who are full of promise but are somehow exposed to opiates... can face a lifelong struggle,” Dr. Traffanstedt said. “Drug overdose deaths now outnumber car accident deaths. We as a state must make every effort to change the situation. We applaud Walgreens for giving our families a safe place to dispose of their medications that carry the potential for abuse.”

The kiosks provide a free, safe and convenient way to dispose of unwanted, unused or expired prescriptions, including controlled substances, and over-the-counter medications. As part of Walgreens drug take-back program, the kiosks make the disposal of medications easier and are available year-round to help reduce the misuse of medications and the rise in overdose deaths.

Alabama is one of 21 states where the Walgreens Safe Medication Disposal Programs has been implemented.

*The Alabama Medical Directors Association is an official partner of Smart & Safe. Learn more about this effort to fight Alabama's prescription drug abuse problem at <http://smartandsafeal.org>.* 

## Meet ALMDA President J. Grier Stewart, MD

J. Grier Stewart, MD, is an associate professor in the Department of Internal Medicine in the College of Community Health Sciences at the University of Alabama. Dr. Stewart is clerkship director for Internal Medicine and he teaches medical students and family medicine residents. He also sees patients at University Medical Center.

Dr. Stewart received a bachelor's degree in biology from Davidson College and his medical degree from the University of Alabama School of Medicine. He has additional certifications in wound care and hyperbarics and has a strong interest in geriatric care and education.

Stewart is a fellow of the American College of Physicians and an officer of its Alabama chapter. 



Welcome!

**We are growing!**  
**Welcome to our new members!**

Saquib Anjum, MD, Florence	Jacinta Kimani, CRNP, Birmingham
Ronnie Chu, MD, Demopolis	Gail McInnish, Bay Minnette
JayKrishna T. Darji, MD, Thomasville	Heather Moreland, CRNP, Birmingham
Frank L. Dozier, MD, Thomasville	Gala Newton, RN, Thomasville
Malathi Ginjupalli, MD, Montgomery	John Van Derwood, MD, Bay Minette
Srinivas Ginjupalli, MD, CMD, Montgomery	Anita Walls, RN, Albertville
Billy Jones, NHA, Monroeville	Jana Zeitvogel, CRNP, Albertville



# Alabama Medical Directors Association 2016 Annual Conference Wrap-up

July 28-31 • Sandestin Golf and Beach Resort

## See what you missed!

Conference presentations are posted at <http://www.almda.org/page/agenda>



*Left: Kendra Sheppard, MD, MSPH, CMD, was recognized for her service as 2015-2016 President of ALMDA.*



*Right: ALMDA board member Charles Nevels, MD, and his wife, Sabra, are pictured with one of the many friendly faces in the conference exhibit hall.*

*Below: The education sessions of the ALMDA Conference were packed with attendees, who earned up to 11 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™.*



## ALMDA News & Notes

### Alabama Medical Directors Association

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The Alabama Medical Directors Association (ALMDA) is the professional association of physicians and other professionals practicing in the long-term care continuum and is dedicated to excellence in patient care by providing education, advocacy, information and professional development.

*The articles contained in ALMDA News & Notes are meant to provoke thought and comment and do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of the members, Executive Council or staff of the Alabama Medical Directors Association. Comments and letters to the editor are welcome.*

## Welcome to our 2016 Board of Directors

### Officers:

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CMD, Birmingham

### Board Members:

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to view all resources!

## Exclusive Offer for Members of ALMDA:

Save 20% on AMDA products through August 31, 2016

Use Promo Code: **STCHP816** at checkout

### Visit Our Product Store

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- ✓ Archived Webinars  
*(free for AMDA members)*
- ✓ Assisted Living Series
- ✓ Clinical Practice Guidelines (CPGs)
- ✓ CPG Implementation Manuals
- ✓ Long-Term Care Information Series
- ✓ Long-Term Care Medicine Pocket Guide
- ✓ Medication Management
- ✓ Practice Management Tools
- ✓ Transitions of Care

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### New Products

- ✓ COPD Management CPG
- ✓ Long-Term Care Medicine: A Pocket Guide (2nd Edition)
- ✓ Clinical Collaboration in the Post-Acute & Long-Term Care Setting

### Best Sellers

- ✓ Pain Management CPG
- ✓ Falls & Falls Risk CPG
- ✓ Guide to Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Coding, Reimbursement and Documentation
- ✓ Know-It-All Before You Call™ Data Collection System

## Clinical Practice Guidelines (CPGs)

AMDA's CPGs have become the standard care process in the long-term care setting. They can reduce costs, avoidable transfers, and risk of survey penalty and litigation. Most importantly, AMDA's CPGs can improve patient outcomes and safety of staff, facility, and patients.

Acute Change of Condition • Altered Nutritional Status • Anemia • COPD Management  
Dehydration and Fluid Maintenance • Dementia • Depression • Diabetes Management  
Falls and Fall Risk • Gastrointestinal Disorders • Health Maintenance • Heart Failure  
Osteoporosis and Fracture Prevention • Pain Management • Parkinson's Disease  
Pressure Ulcers • Sleep Disorders • Stroke Management and Prevention  
Transitions of Care (free download) • Urinary Incontinence