



ALMDA

News & Notes

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

WWW.ALMDA.ORG

Study links Certified Medical Director with improved nursing home quality

American Board of Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine, Inc.

A 2009 study, commissioned by the American Medical Directors Certification Program (now the American Board of Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine) found that having a CMD contributes positively to a nursing home's quality of care. Analysis of data showed that quality scores represented a 15 percent improvement in quality for facilities with certified medical directors (CMDs). The study appears in the July 2009 issue of the *Journal of the American Medical Directors Association* (JAMDA). Access the article

by [clicking here](#) to download the pdf.

The ABPLM CMD program is administered by the American Board of Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine (ABPLM), an independent not-for-profit organization. Applications for certification are reviewed by the ABPLM Board of Directors twice each year, in June and December. New CMDs are recognized at the Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine annual conference each year.

Since the program's inception, over 3,800 physician medical directors have received the CMD designation.

Medical directors in all post-acute and long-term care settings are eligible for certification. For eligibility information [click here](#). To find out more about ABPLM pre-approved CMD hours toward certification or recertification, [click here](#).

Once awarded, certification is valid for six years, after which recertification is required to maintain ABPLM CMD status.

If you have any questions about certification, contact the ABPLM director at (410) 992-3117 or cmd@paltc.org.

ALABAMA
MEDICAL DIRECTORS
ASSOCIATION
2017 ANNUAL
CONFERENCE

JULY 27-30
2017

Sandestin Golf and Beach Resort
See pages 5 & 6 for details.

Join us for
ALMDA's 2017
Annual Conference

- Quality Education
- Networking time with colleagues and vendors
- Elections
 - Secretary-Treasurer
 - Six Board Positions

Contact ALMDA President J. Grier Stewart, MD, (jgstewart1@ua.edu) if you are interested in serving or would like to nominate someone.

AMDA Product Store – Pocket Guide: Next best thing to personal diabetes expert

AMDA

The prevalence of diabetes, especially in the 65 and older population, has grown in recent years, and practitioners in post-acute and long-term care settings are constantly working to keep up with the literature and news about diabetes care. It would be ideal if they could have a diabetes expert at their side at all times; the next best thing is the society's new *Diabetes Management Pocket Guide*.

This tool provides help with the recognition, assessment, treatment, and monitoring of diabetes, along with the latest recommendations from the

American Diabetes Association, and new guidance of pneumococcal vaccination specific to post-acute and long-term care. The pocket guide was created for use by physicians, nurses, and other health care professionals, and includes a comprehensive medication table for pharmacological treatment of diabetes. Denise Wassenaar, RN, MS, LNHA, who worked on the development of this tool, as well as the society's revised clinical practice guideline (CPG) on this topic, says, "The pocket guide will give practitioners and their teams quick and easy access to pertinent information they need to manage diabetes in this population."

Particularly with new and less experienced staff, this will be extremely useful as they often come to this field with misperceptions that diabetes should be treated the same way in every patient, regardless of age, Wassenaar suggests. In truth, she stresses, glycemic control and other issues are managed differently in elders than they are in younger, healthier patients. "We have to manage diabetes care based on patients' physiological and chronological age. And we have to look at the benefits and risks of various treatment modalities," she says.

The pocket guide, as well as the CPG, provide information and guidance that facilities can share with the hospital to ensure smooth transitions. "When diabetes is well-managed in the nursing facility, you want to make sure that when a patient is transferred to the hospital, there is a plan that will guide care successfully there," says Wassenaar. At the same time, she says, these tools can support patient and family education to help ensure a safe, effective return to their home. "You have to ensure that they know how to take and/or administer medications, that they are able to get prescriptions filled, that they have follow-up appointments and a way to get to them, and that they will be able to adhere to a healthy diet." There are many social issues to address as well, she notes, including how much family support there is, what their cognitive status is, and what their financial resources are.

As a practitioner, Wassenaar loves the pocket guide. Her favorite feature is the medication therapy section that includes user-friendly tables and information on correct dosing of oral and injectable medications. Of course, she says, the treatment and monitoring sections are "key pieces" for clinicians. The guide is a unique tool, she notes, in that it "is rare to find all of this evidence-based information so concisely organized in one place." She adds, "It holds tremendous value for prescribers and other clinicians."

The pocket guide is available with the *Diabetes Management Clinical Practice Guideline* or in sets of 5. 

Introducing new ALMDA members for 2017

ALMDA is excited to announce that seven long term-care facilities in Alabama and one in Louisiana have taken advantage of ALMDA's new membership category for facilities. The Facility Membership category provides the opportunity for long-term care facilities to join ALMDA and send two non-physician staff members to our two annual conferences and participate in our membership meetings, though without voting privileges. If your facility is interested in becoming a Facility Member of ALMDA, contact ALMDA Executive Director Jennifer Hayes at (334) 954-2500 or by e-mail at jhayes@alamedical.org.

WELCOME!

Facility Members

Andalusia Manor, Andalusia
Chapman Healthcare, Alexander City
Hillview Terrace, Montgomery
Perry County Nursing Home, Marion
Provider Health Services, LaFayette, LA
Schmidt Wallace Healthcare,
Montgomery
Shelby Ridge, Alabaster
Talladega Healthcare & Rehab Select,
Talladega

New Associate Members

Leila Ladhier, Optum, Birmingham
John Scarbrough, Marengo Nursing
Home, Linden

New Regular Members (Physicians and CRNPs)

Ashley Adams, CRNP, Charles T. Nevels,
MD, PC, Tuscaloosa
Felix Allen, MD, Hillview Terrace,
Montgomery
Deda Babb, CRNP, Optum Care,
Birmingham
Melissa Behringer, MD, CMD, UAB
Selma Family Medicine, Selma

Gary A. Calhoun, MD, CMD, Albertville
Nursing Home, Albertville
Carlos Clark II, MD, Southern Clinic,
Dothan
Robin Collins, CRNP, Optum Complex
Care, Birmingham
Allison Crabtree, CRNP, Southern NP
Associates, Tuscaloosa
Chase Gunter, Boyde J. Harrison, MD,
PC, Haleyville
Jerry Hankins, MD, IPC/Team Health,
Montgomery
Wanda M. Patterson, CRNP, Sharma
Family Medicine, Opelika
Jennifer Nicole Saizan, CRNP, Optum,
Birmingham
Robin Scott, CRNP, South DeKalb
Family Medicine Assoc. PC,
Albertville
Donald F. Slappey, MD, Collinsville
Health & Rehab, Collinsville
Linda Thomas, CRNP, Henry Beeler, MD,
Cullman
Judy Travis, MD, Marengo Nursing
Home, Linden
Kerri Wiley, CRNP, Southern NP
Associates, Tuscaloosa 

Five ways for healthcare providers to get ready for new Medicare cards

by Richard E. Wild, MD, FACEP, Chief Medical Officer
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid
Region IV (AL, FL, GA, KY, MS, NC, SC, TN)

Medicare is taking steps to remove Social Security numbers from Medicare cards. Through this initiative the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) will prevent fraud, fight identity theft and protect essential program funding, and the private healthcare and financial information of our Medicare beneficiaries.



CMS will issue new Medicare cards with a new unique, randomly-assigned number called a Medicare Beneficiary Identifier (MBI) to replace the existing Social Security-based Health Insurance Claim Number (HICN) both on the cards and in various CMS systems we use now. **We'll start mailing new cards to people with Medicare benefits in April 2018.** All Medicare cards will be replaced by April 2019.

CMS is committed to helping providers by giving them the tools they need. We want to make this process as easy as possible for you, your patients and your staff. Based on feedback from healthcare providers, practice managers and other stakeholders, CMS is developing capabilities where doctors and other healthcare providers will be able to look up the new MBI through a secure tool at the point of service. To make this change easier for you and your business operations, there is a 21-month transition period where all healthcare providers will be able to use either the MBI or the HICN for billing purposes.

Even though, your systems will need the capability to accept the new MBI format by April 2018, you can continue to bill and file healthcare claims using a patient's HICN during the transition period. We encourage you to work with your billing vendor to make sure that your system will be updated to reflect these changes as well.

Beginning in April 2018, Medicare patients will come to your office with new cards in hand. We're committed to giving you information you need to help your office get ready for new Medicare cards and MBIs.

Here are 5 steps you can take today to help your office or healthcare facility get ready:

- Go to our [provider website](#) and sign-up for the weekly *MLN Connects*® newsletter.
- Attend our quarterly calls to get more information. We'll let you know when calls are scheduled in the *MLN Connects* newsletter.
- Verify all of your Medicare patients' addresses. If the addresses you have on file are different than the Medicare address you get on electronic eligibility transactions, ask your patients to contact Social Security and update their Medicare records.
- Work with us to help your Medicare patients adjust to their new Medicare card. When available later this fall, you can display helpful information about the new Medicare cards. Hang posters about the change in your offices to help us spread the word.
- Test your system changes and work with your billing office staff to be sure your office is ready to use the new MBI format.

We'll keep working closely with you to answer your questions and hear your concerns. To learn more, visit: cms.gov/Medicare/SSNRI/Providers/Providers.html.

New quality payment program resources available

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has revamped the look of the [Quality Payment Program website](#), and also posted new resources to help clinicians successfully participate in the first year of the Quality Payment Program.

CMS encourages clinicians to visit the website to review the following new resources:

- **MIPS Quick Start Guide:** Outlines the steps MIPS clinicians need to take between now and March 2018 to prepare for and participate in MIPS, including checking *participation status*, choosing to participate as an *individual or as part of a group*, deciding how to submit data, and selecting *measures and activities*.
- **2017 CAHPS for MIPS Conditionally-Approved Survey Vendor List:** Includes contact information for the list of conditionally-approved survey vendors to administer the CAHPS for MIPS Survey in 2017.

Note: Final approval of these organizations is dependent on satisfactory completion of CMS training and submission of a Quality Assurance Plan. A final list of the CAHPS for MIPS Survey vendors approved by CMS to administer the 2017 survey will be made publicly available this summer.

- **Medicare Shared Savings Program and Quality Payment Program Fact Sheet:** Explains how the Shared Savings Program and the Quality Payment Program align reporting requirements for participating Accountable Care Organizations (ACOs) and MIPS clinicians, and how certain tracks in Shared Savings Program ACOs meet Advanced Alternative Payment Model (APM) criteria under the Quality Payment Program.
- **MIPS APM Fact Sheet:** Provides an overview of a specific type of APM, called a "MIPS APM," and the special APM scoring standard used for those in MIPS APMs.

For More Information

To get the latest information, visit the [Quality Payment Program website](#). The Quality Payment Program Service Center can also be reached at (866) 288-8292 (TTY (877) 715-6222), available Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. ET or via email at QPP@cms.hhs.gov.

AMDA 2017-2018 President: Heidi White, MD, MED, CMD

AMDA



My name is Heidi White. I am the new president of AMDA – The Society of Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine. I'm from Durham, NC, where I am an associate professor of internal medicine at Duke University Medical Center.

How did I get into this field? I think, it's a journey for everyone and I'd say my journey started in my youth. My mother was a social worker and she always worked with the senior population. Because of that, I think I always had a tendency to really enjoy being around older adults. After medical school I knew I wanted to do geriatric medicine

fellowship training, and I did that. I didn't really think that I would end up in post-acute and long-term care in particular, but that's the opportunity that presented itself when I joined the faculty, and I found it was a wonderful place to use my skills. There was a team to work with. A team of nurses and therapists, and pharmacists, and other people and I enjoyed working on that team. And the people needed my services. The patients needed my services, and so I found that it was a really wonderful environment in which to work, and to serve, and to use the training that I have.

As the society's new president I am most looking forward to working with a wonderful group of people. We have a wonderful executive director in Chris Laxton, and the staff at AMDA, the different department directors are wonderful. Everyone is so committed to what they do. And I'm also really excited about working with a wonderful group of volunteers. Members who serve on the board, who serve on committees. It's just wonderful to work with these highly trained professionals, who are willing to give so freely of their time and energy.

The society's biggest challenge in the coming year might actually be thinking about who we can become, and how we want to grow, and how we want to continue to represent this area of medical practice. So, re-conceptualizing and reinvigorating who we are. We are always going to be medical directors. But, we also want to be attending physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, and other professionals in this setting who want to partner with us for good care. Also, a challenge, will just be the health care environment. Right now there is so much change within the health care environment, and we need to be on top of it, and we need to be speaking into it, and making sure that we've got our elevator speech ready, and that people know who we are, what we do, and why we do it.

My goals for the next year really include continuing some of the efforts that are already well underway. So, continued development of our new Practice Management Section, is so important. It's so important to our relevance for practitioners within this environment, it's so important to grow our membership through this mechanism, and to think more broadly about our advocacy efforts. So, I'm very excited to put meat on the bones of our Practice Management Section. I'm also an educator so I'm really interested in continuing to develop some of the educational materials that we have and to see them put into use by practitioners. I've put a lot of effort into the Competency Curriculum that has just been completed, and so have so many other members of this organization. And, it's really foundational, and it's excellent, and I want to see it put into use, so I want to work in that direction as well. And, I want to work in the direction of better defining quality in our setting of care, so that the work that we do is appropriately measured and valued for our patients and their families.

Hard to say... what do I want members to know about me. Thought I'm passionate about Duke, I can't say I'm a big basketball fan. I try to keep up with it as much as I can. I do enjoy North Carolina. I live in the piedmont, but we also have a beautiful coast and beautiful mountains in the west. I enjoy hiking and camping, so that's how I get away and take care of myself so that I can come back and do the work that I love and enjoy. 

CMS releases approved QCDR vendor list

AMDA

In early June, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued the **2017 CMS-Approved Qualified Clinical Data Registries (QCDRs) Vendor List**. The list includes contact information for the list of QCDRs that will be able to report data for the Quality, Advancing Care Information, and Improvement Activities performance categories in 2017. The QCDR reporting option allows eligible clinicians to report on measures that are not included in the MIPS measure list.

The Society does not currently have its own QCDR but is exploring ways for its development. Members are encouraged to review the list should any be applicable. 

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.



THE ALABAMA
MEDICAL DIRECTORS
ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

JULY 27-30, 2017

Sandestin Golf and Beach Resort Linkside Conference Center

Agenda

THURSDAY, JULY 27

5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

ALMDA Board Meeting

Linkside Conference Center,
Terrace Room

6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Registration/Reception with Exhibitors

FRIDAY, JULY 28

7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.

Advisory Committee Meeting of ALMDA's Board of Directors, ANHA and ADPH

Linkside Conference Center,
Terrace Room

7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.

Registration/Breakfast with Exhibitors

8:30 a.m. – 8:35 a.m.

Welcome

J. Grier Stewart, MD, CMD, FACP,
President, ALMDA

8:35 a.m. – 10:35 a.m.

Washington Update: MACRA and Beyond

Alex Bardakh, MPP, Director of Policy
and Advocacy, AMDA

10:35 a.m. – 11:05 a.m.

Morning Break with Exhibitors

11:05 a.m. – 12:05 p.m.

From Fighting Fires to Innovation – A Roadmap for Achieving Performance Excellence in Nursing Homes

Liz Prosch, RN, NHA, Vice President,
Mission Integration and Quality,
Methodist Homes Corporation

12:05 p.m. – 1:05 p.m.

Lunch and Membership Meeting

1:05 p.m. – 2:05 p.m.

The Role of the Physicians

Drew Nelson, MPH, Project Development
and Quality Assurance, Alabama
Medicaid Agency

2:05 p.m. – 3:05 p.m.

Medicaid Update for Long Term Care

Drew Nelson, MPH, Project Development
and Quality Assurance, Alabama
Medicaid Agency

SATURDAY, JULY 29

7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.

Breakfast with Exhibitors

8:30 a.m. – 8:35 a.m.

Announcements

J. Grier Stewart, MD, CMD, FACP,
President, ALMDA

8:35 a.m. – 9:35 a.m.

Medical Malpractice

Joseph L. Reece Jr., JD, Partner, Starnes,
Davis and Florie

9:35 a.m. – 10:35 a.m.

New Regulations on Resident-Centered Care

Michael J. Lepore, PhD, Senior Health
Policy and Health Services Researcher,
RTI International

10:35 a.m. – 11:05 a.m.

Morning Break with Exhibitors

11:05 a.m. – 12:05 p.m.

Pressure Ulcer Management in Long Term Care

J. Grier Stewart, MD, CMD, FACP,
Associate Professor, University of Alabama

12:05 p.m. – 1:05 p.m.

Optimizing Reimbursement of the Clinical

Team in Long-Term Care
Carolyn Clevenger, DNP, EQUIPPED
Quality Improvement Methodologist,
Emory University

Katherine Evans, DNP, Associate

Director, Clinical Group Business Support,
UnitedHealthcare

Lunch on your own

SUNDAY, JULY 30

7:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.

Continental Breakfast

7:25 a.m. – 7:30 a.m.

Announcements

J. Grier Stewart, MD, CMD, FACP
President, ALMDA

7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.

Antibiograms In Long-Term Care

Marilyn Bulloch, PharmD, Associate
Clinical Professor, Auburn University

8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Panel Discussion – Red Eye Rounds: Medical Direction Challenges and Clinical Quandaries

W.T. Geary, MD, Medical Director, ADPH
Bureau of Health Provider Standards

Charlotte Wynn, MSN, CRNP, Director of
Clinical Operations, OPTUM

J. Grier Stewart, MD, CMD, FACP,
Associate Professor, University of
Alabama

Marilyn Bulloch, PharmD, Associate
Clinical Professor, Auburn University

10:30 a.m.

Closing Remarks and Adjournment

Objectives:

- Identify types of wounds common in long-term care, the most effective treatment and ineffective treatment.
- Recognize malpractice risks in long-term care and ways to mitigate risk.
- State how to focus care and meet needs of the resident in LTC.
- Acquire knowledge of benefits/risks of new pharmaceuticals on frail patients in long-term care.
- Develop and expand knowledge of correct coding in the long-term care setting.



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ANNUAL CONFERENCE

JULY 27-30, 2017

Sandestin Golf and Beach Resort

REGISTRATION FORM – PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Name: _____ Name to appear on Badge: _____

CMD MD DO Administrator CRNP LPN Other _____

Company/Organization Name: _____

Address: _____

Office Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Fax: _____ E-mail: _____

Dietary Needs: _____ I opt out of being listed in the ALMDA Directory.

(The directory includes name, company name, address and office phone number.)

REGISTRATION FEES (Before July 24) – After July 24 add \$25

- Physician Member \$300 Physician Non-Member \$400 (includes 2017 membership dues)
 Affiliate Member \$300 Affiliate Non-Member \$350 (includes 2017 membership dues)
 I am a first-time attendee Guest \$75 Guest Name: _____

ONLINE REGISTRATION

To register online go to www.tinyurl.com/ALMDA2017AnnualConference.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Rooms at the Sandestin Golf and Beach Resort begin at \$175 per night. Rate applies for three days before the conference and three days after based on availability. Reserve a room online at <http://www.Sandestin.com> or by calling (800) 320-8115 with Group Code 23H7Q2.

NOTE: Room block closes June 23 but we expect rooms will sell out before that time.

MAIL REGISTRATION FORMS AND CHECKS TO

ALMDA Annual Conference | Attn. Jennifer Hayes | PO Box 1900 | Montgomery, AL 36102-1900

DETAILS

More conference information is available online at www.ALMDA.org. If you have special needs and/or need assistance, please contact Jennifer Hayes, Executive Director, at (334) 954-2500 or JHayes@alamedical.org.

PAYMENT

Credit Card: VISA MasterCard American Express Check made payable to ALMDA

Cardholder Name: _____ E-mail address for receipt: _____

Card Number: _____ Exp. Date: _____ Security Code: _____

Billing Address: _____ City, State, ZIP _____

Signature: _____ Amount: \$ _____