

ALMDA

News & Notes

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

WWW.ALMDA.ORG

Preregistration for ALMDA's Mid Winter Conference continues through Jan. 20

ALMDA's Mid Winter Conference is Saturday, Jan. 25, 2020, at the Birmingham Marriott, 3590 Grandview Parkway. Topics include:

- Common Problems of Aging
- The Patient Driven Payment Model
- Evaluation and Management of Dementia
- Electronic Death Registration
- ICD-10 Codes for Nursing Homes
- Literature Updates on Geriatrics

Faculty



Cherry T. Davenport, MPH, is the Electronic Vital Events and Registration System manager and registration supervisor for the Center for Health Statistics. She manages the state-wide electronic database for all births and deaths within the State of Alabama. She also oversees the manual registration division, which includes paper death certificates processing.

Ms. Davenport will present Electronic Death Registration for Medical Certifiers.



Kim Huey, CPC, is an independent coding, reimbursement, and compliance consultant and serves as president of KGG Coding and Reimbursement Consulting, LLC. She has served as the president of Magic City Professional Coders and was a founding member of Capital City Coders.

Ms. Huey will present Coding ICD-10 Codes for Nursing Homes.



Soojung Samantha Lee, MD, is a board-certified family medicine physician and is expecting to complete a geriatrics fellowship at the University of Alabama-Birmingham in the summer of 2020. She received her bachelor's degree in chemistry from Tulane University, her medical degree from Louisiana State University School of Medicine and completed her family medicine residency at University of Alabama-Birmingham in 2019.

Dr. Lee will present Literature Updates on Geriatrics.

Alliant Health Solutions to serve as QIO for Alabama

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services has awarded a five-year contract to Alliant Health Solutions to serve as a Quality Innovation Network – Quality Improvement Organization for Alabama under the recently launched 12th Statement of Work.

Alliant Quality will provide targeted assistance at no cost to nursing homes and communities in small and rural practices, those serving the most vulnerable populations, and those in need of customized quality improvement by:

- Improving Behavioral Health Outcomes – Including Opioid Misuse,
- Increasing Patient Safety,
- Increasing Chronic Disease Self-Management,
- Increasing the Quality of Care Transitions, and
- Improving Nursing Home Quality.

For more information and to learn how you can be a partner in this important work visit www.alliantquality.org and to see the Participation Agreement [click here](#). If you have any questions, please contact Jeana Partington, Program Director at (919) 745-4729 or Jeana.Partington@alliantquality.org.

Four tips for audits and investigations

Alabama Medicine

Jim Hoover, Burr & Forman LLP

This article addresses the undisputed top four dos and don'ts that physicians should follow during an audit or investigation.

Keep an Exact Copy of Everything Produced or Viewed.

Most of the time I am not retained until after the practice has turned over the requested documents and, in some cases, has also turned over non-requested documents. The usual response by the practice, when asked why it did not keep a copy of what was released, is something along the lines of “we did nothing wrong” or “we know what we turned over and can make a copy if needed.” However, when I ask for the documents produced, the practice oftentimes cannot replicate what was produced. This puts the practice at a competitive disadvantage from the start. It also makes citing to a particular document extremely difficult when legal counsel does not know (1) if a particular document was actually produced, or (2) if it was produced, where in the mountain of records the document is located. Defending the practice's conduct or fighting a recoupment becomes challenging without a copy of the documents. Thus, the practice should go ahead and make an exact copy of what is produced and maintain the copy until the practice is reasonably sure nothing will come from the audit or investigation. It is also recommended that the practice hire legal counsel before producing records, so as to ensure that only responsive documents are produced.

Review All of the Medical Records Before Producing.

While this seems like a no brainer, I cannot state the number of times a medical practice has printed what it believes to be the entire medical record only to learn when receiving a recoupment demand or allegation of false claims that the entire medical record was not produced. Another common issue in this age of electronic medical records (“EMR”) is that the printed record looks substantially different than the electronic record. Some EMR systems will print a paper copy differently if the “print” function is used versus the “print screen” function. I have experienced numerous occasions when the paper copy looks suspicious or incomplete, particularly the patient's history or prescription records, because of the way the EMR prints the record. On a related note, if the practice wishes to use a consultant to conduct a simulated audit, it is important to make sure that the consultant either has access to the EMR or that the printed paper records are complete and identical to the electronic records.

Maintain Signature Logs of Alabama Medicaid Patients.

The Alabama Medicaid Agency requires that providers maintain evidence that the patient actually attended the appointment. It does this by requiring providers to keep a signature on file to prove the patient's attendance at each appointment. I have represented quite a few physicians and practices in Medicaid audits, and I do not recall

an audit that did not request copies of the patients' signatures. However, the signature requirement is not well known by Alabama providers, as many of my clients are unaware of the requirement and fail to keep a copy of the signatures. While there are other ways to prove that a patient attended the visit, it is very simple to satisfy the signature requirement and avoid having to gather other forms of proof—simply use the removable signature logs and paste the patient's signature into the record for that particular visit.

Never, Ever, Ever Voluntarily Surrender A License/Permit/ Participation Without First Obtaining Advice of Counsel.

Without question, the undisputed defending champion and current #1 is never ever voluntarily surrender a license, permit or participation in a payor's program without first obtaining advice of counsel. I have heard on multiple occasions that a particular investigator says something along the lines of the following to a licensee “Things will go much easier if you voluntarily surrender your license.” I have never in my experience seen where things have gone easier for the physician when he/she has voluntarily surrendered his/her license. However, it does make things easier for the licensing body, so the statement above is true as phrased. The voluntary surrender substantially compromises the physician's ability to defend his/her case, as the physician has lost any leverage he/she may have had

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Mid Winter Conference Faculty continued



Don Maples, CPA, is a partner at Carr, Riggs & Ingram CPAs and Advisors in Montgomery. His more than 40 years of accounting experience includes working with long-term care clients.

Mr. Maples will present The Patient Driven Payment Model.




Charles Nevels, MD, is a private practice psychiatrist in Tuscaloosa. He has been in practice for more than 20 years and serves on multiple committees of the Alabama Psychiatric Physicians Association.

Dr. Nevels will present Behavior Evaluation and Management of Dementia.



Robert Webb, MD, serves as 2019-2020 president of ALMDA. He is medical director of the Supportive Care Services Department at Eliza Coffee Memorial Hospital and serves as chair of the Ethics Committee. In addition, he is medical director at Lauderdale Christian Nursing Home, associate medical director at Florence Nursing and Rehab, and medical director of Hospice of the Shoals.

Dr. Webb also maintains a website on palliative care issues, www.comfortcarechoices.com, to help seniors and families make more informed choices in healthcare.

Dr. Webb will present Keeping Twinkles in you Wrinkles: Five Common Problems in Aging. 

Thank you to the following members for paying your 2020* ALMDA membership dues!

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*Data as of Jan. 13, 2020.


New members appear in bold print. 

Pay your 2020 dues online at
www.finyurl.com/ALMDA2020
or use the form on page 5.

Audits and Investigations continued

– the agency already has what it wants
 – the physician's license. Most licensing agencies have due process requirements that must be followed before it can revoke, suspend, or take any adverse action on a license. One of the most important due process requirements is giving the

physician the right to a hearing where the physician can be represented by counsel and present evidence. The hearing process affords the physician the ability to test the agency's evidence and interpretation of its regulations, which are oftentimes flawed. The hearing process also gives

the physician the ability to reach a compromised resolution of the matter, oftentimes allowing the physician to keep his/her license. By voluntarily surrendering a license, the physician loses such rights and ability. 



2020 Mid Winter Conference

Agenda

Birmingham Marriott Grandview Parkway

Saturday, January 25

7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.

Meeting of the ALMDA Board of Directors, ALNHA's executives, ALAA executives and the ADPH Medical Director Advisory Committee

8:00 a.m. – 8:55 a.m.

Registration; Strolling Breakfast with Exhibitors

9:00 a.m. – 9:05 a.m.

Welcome

Robert Webb, MD, President

9:05 a.m. – 9:35 a.m.

Keeping Twinkles in your Wrinkles: Five Common Problems in Aging

Robert Webb, MD, Medical Director, Lauderdale Christian Nursing Home

Learning Objective: Discuss the five most common problems in an aging patient – Sleep, falls, bladder issues, delirium and walking.

9:35 a.m. – 10:35 a.m.

The Patient Driven Payment Model

Don Maples, CPA, Partner, Carr, Riggs & Ingram

Learning Objective: Describe the rules and regulations of the new Patient Driven Payment Model to ensure adequate reimbursements from CMS.

10:35 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Break with Exhibitors

11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Behavior Evaluation and Management of Dementia

Charles Nevels, MD, Psychiatric Private Practice

Learning Objective: Recognize the signs and symptoms of dementia in the long-term care patient.

12:00 p.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Lunch with Exhibitors

12:30 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

ALMDA membership meeting

1:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Electronic Death Registration for Medical Certifiers

Cherry Davenport, MPH, Manager, Electronic Vital Events and Registration System, Center for Health Statistics and State Registry

Learning Objective: Demonstrate the ability to submit a death certificate electronically through the AL-EDRS.

1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Coding ICD-10 Codes for Nursing Homes

Kim Huey, CPC, President, KGG Coding and Reimbursement Consulting, LLC

Learning Objective: Describe the importance of correct, complete, specific diagnosis documentation and coding for the ICD-10-CM.

2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Literature Updates on Geriatrics

Soojung Samantha Lee, MD, Geriatrics Fellow, University of Alabama - Birmingham

Learning Objectives: Analyze new literature on the treatment of long term care and geriatric patients.

3:30 p.m.

Adjourn

Accreditation Statement

This activity has been planned and implemented in accordance with the accreditation requirements and policies of the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) through the joint providership of AMDA - The Society for Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine and the Alabama Medical Directors Association. AMDA - The Society for Post-Acute and Long-Term

Care Medicine is accredited by the ACCME to provide continuing medical education for physicians. This live activity is approved for a maximum of 5.0 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits*[™]. Physicians should claim credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity. The ALMDA 2020 Mid-Winter Conference has been designated for 2.5 management and 2.5 clinical credits.

CMD Credit Statement

This live activity has been pre-approved by the American Board of Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine (ABPLM) for a total 2.5 management hours and 2.5 clinical hours toward certification as a Certified Medical Director (CMD) in post-acute and long-term care medicine. The CMD program is administered by the ABPLM. Each physician should claim only those hours of credit actually spent on the activity.



2020 Individual Membership and Conference Registration

Name: _____ Professional Designation: _____

Facility Name: _____

Facility Address: _____
Street or PO Box City, State ZIP

*Home Address: _____
Street or PO Box City, State ZIP

Facility Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

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Check here to opt out of being listed in the 2020 ALMDA Member Directory.

**Home addresses will not be published.*

Select a Membership Category (Pay dues online at www.tinyurl.com/ALMDA2020)

- Regular Membership: \$100**
Physicians and Nurse Practitioners involved in long-term care
- Associate Membership: \$50**
Nurses, Pharmaceutical Representatives, Administrators, and any other professional involved in long-term care

Meeting Registration (Register online at www.tinyurl.com/ALMDA2020)

Attendees of ALMDAs conferences must be a member. Choose the appropriate category above.

- Mid Winter Conference (Jan. 25, 2020) \$200 (Add \$25 if registering after Jan. 20)**
Birmingham Marriott, 3590 Grandview Pkwy, Birmingham, AL 35243
For hotel reservations, call (888) 426-5171 and ask for the Alabama Medical Directors Association room block. The rate for Friday, Jan. 24, is \$139. Reserve online at <https://tinyurl.com/ALMDAMarriottBirmingham>. Room cutoff is Jan. 3, 2020.
- Annual Conference (July 23-26, 2020) \$300 (Add \$25 if registering after July 20)**
Sandestin Golf and Beach Resort, Linkside Conference Center, 9300 Emerald Coast Highway, Miramar Beach, FL 32550
Accommodation information will be available soon.
- Annual Conference Guest(s) (meal functions only) \$75 each**

Name(s): _____

PAYMENT:

Credit Card: VISA MasterCard American Express Check payable to ALMDA

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Complete form and return to: Alabama Medical Directors Association (ALMDA)
P.O. Box 1900 • Montgomery, AL 36102 • Fax: (334) 269-5200

For more information, please contact Meghan Martin at MMartin@alamedical.org or (334) 954-2500.



Registration is open for AMDA's 2020 Annual Conference • April 2-5 in Chicago, Ill.

The Only Educational Forum of Its Kind in PALTC

Registration is open for the 2020 AMDA – The Society for Post-Acute and Long-Term Care (PALTC) Medicine's Annual Conference, April 2-5, in Chicago! There are many reasons to register, including the latest clinical developments in geriatric medicine, best practices in medical direction, policy/regulatory updates, practical tools to help implement new ideas in your practice setting, and lots of opportunities for networking and socializing.

The schedule is jam-packed with informative sessions such as:

- A Primer for New Providers in PALTC
- PDPM for the Clinician
- Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About Nurse Practitioners and Physician Assistants, But Were Afraid to Ask – Essentials of Nursing
- Home Psychiatry for Non-Psychiatrists
- Coding Changes that Impact Your PALTC Practice
- Medical Director Leadership in PALTC
- To Prescribe or Deprescribe? Best Practices for Appropriately Reducing Pill Burden in Older Adults
- Interdisciplinary Fall and Fracture Prevention in Home and Long-Term Care

Earn up to 25.25 CME credits, 25.25 MOC points, 22.5 CMD management hours, 18.75 CMD clinical hours, and more.

For registration, agenda and complete details, visit <https://www.eventscribe.com/2020/AMDA/aaStatic.asp?SFP=TEZKS1JTSIWAMjU4OQ>.

ALMDA will host a reception for all attendees from Alabama. Look for details coming soon.

Be an Effective Medical Director: AMDA offers online Core Curriculum* on Medical Direction in PALTC

AMDA – The Society for Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine has been dedicated to training and credentialing medical directors across the country for 40 years. More than 1,600 individuals have completed the Core Curriculum on Medical Direction in PALTC during the past decade. **Registration is now open for the Online Core Winter Session, Jan. 28 - April 21.**

Critical topics include:

- Regulatory Issues
- Quality Management
- Risk Management
- Staff Oversight
- Residents' Rights
- Infection Control
- Ethics

If you've already completed the Online Core, registration also is open for Summer Core Synthesis Weekend – July 31 - Aug. 2 in West Palm Beach, FL – as well as the Fall Core Synthesis Weekend – Oct. 16-18 in Columbus, OH. Completion of the Online Core Curriculum is a prerequisite for attending the Core Synthesis.

For registration and complete course details visit <https://paltc.org/core-curriculum-medical-direction-post-acute-and-long-term-care>.

*Continuing Medical Education

AMDA – The Society for Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) to provide continuing education for physicians.

AMDA – The Society for Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine designates this activity for a maximum of 46.75 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™. Physicians should only claim credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

ALMDA News & Notes

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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.