

ISDH Long Term Care
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A Note of Thanks

The Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) would like to thank Jennifer Bachman, M.Ed., for her contributions to improving health care quality in the State of Indiana. In recent years Jennifer has served as Senior Projects Director for the University of Indianapolis Center for Aging & Community. Jennifer recently left her position at the Center to pursue new challenges in health promotion.

Jennifer has made significant contributions to state health care quality improvement initiatives. For the past two years Jennifer served as Project Director for the ISDH's Indiana Pressure Ulcer Initiative. The Initiative resulted in a significant reduction of pressure ulcers in participating facilities and agencies. Jennifer's leadership in promoting collaboration and outcomes was instrumental in the success of the initiative. In her duties at the Center, Jennifer also directed programs on aging. More recently, Jennifer organized the development of the Indiana Plan for the Prevention of Healthcare Associated Infections.

We thank Jennifer for her leadership in promoting health care quality. Through her positive enthusiasm and focus on collaboration, Jennifer set a high standard for state collaborative efforts and quality improvement outcomes. We are grateful for her contributions and wish her the very best in her new challenges.

Staff Appointments

The Indiana State Department of Health Division of Long Term Care is pleased to announce the appointment of Randy Fry, RN, as a Long Term Care Surveyor Supervisor effective January 11, 2010. Randy was appointed Surveyor Supervisor for LTC Survey Area 3, replacing Brenda Buroker who became Survey Manager in November, 2009. Randy lives in southern Allen County and will supervise the surveyors who work in Wabash, Huntington, Wells, Adams, Jay, Blackford, Grant, Howard, Clinton, Tipton, Madison, Delaware, and Randolph Counties.

Randy earned his Associate Degree in Nursing from Hocking College in Nelsonville, Ohio. Randy has been a registered nurse for thirty years and was a licensed practical nurse before that. He worked in long term care in the 1970s and has seen the tremendous changes in the industry. Randy's registered nursing experience includes critical care, emergency room, and psychiatric. Randy was the Inpatient Manager at the Bowen Center in Warsaw, Indiana until 1988 when he went to work for the State in the Department of Corrections and the Division of Disability and Rehabilitation. In April, 2002, Randy became a surveyor in the Division of Long Term Care and surveyed in the Fort Wayne area as a member of a team and as a complaint surveyor. Randy's office number is 317-233-7772 and his email

address is rfry@isdh.in.gov.

Regulatory Update

CMS' Regulation Station Update

The ISDH is forwarding this week's "CMS Regulation Station Update." CMS periodically provides clarifications to regulations to improve understanding of what CMS is looking for in a survey.

K154 / K155:

K154 requires compliance with LSC Section 9.7.6.1, which states that a facility must be evacuated or an approved fire watch must be conducted when the sprinkler system is out of service for more than four hours in a twenty-four hour period. K155 requires compliance with LSC Section 9.6.1.8, which states that a facility must be evacuated or an approved fire watch must be conducted when the fire alarm system is out of service for more than four hours in a twenty-four hour period. Most facilities adopt policies, often called fire watch policies, to meet the requirements of LSC Sections 9.6.1.8 and 9.7.6.1. The following are a few examples of issues that result in deficiencies being cited at these K tags:

1. The fire watch policy incorrectly addresses the time criteria for instituting the fire watch. The life safety code states the fire watch must be conducted if the fire alarm or sprinkler system is out of service for more than four hours in a twenty-four hour period. Errors occur when the policy erroneously states the systems must be out of service for more than four hours, which implies four consecutive hours. However, the requirements do not require the outage to last for four consecutive hours. A fire watch must be conducted when the sum of all outages in a twenty-four hour period totals more than four hours.
2. The fire watch policy fails to address contacting all authorities having jurisdiction (AHJ). The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is one of the AHJs for the life safety code for certified facilities. State agencies (SA) act on behalf of CMS for certification purposes. Therefore, contacting a state agency (SA) should be addressed in a facility's fire watch policy.
3. The fire watch policy states staff members will be assigned the fire watch in addition to their normal duties. Staff members must be dedicated to the fire watch and cannot conduct a fire watch in addition to their normal duties. A staff member's normal duties would most likely keep them from conducting the fire watch, which must be conducted continuously during the outage, for extended periods of time.

These examples do not address all possible reasons for citations at K154 or K155.

A message from the CMS Caregiver Initiative

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services want to call your attention to a new video and resource guide featured on Ask Medicare (www.medicare.gov/caregivers). The video tells one family's story, and highlights programs and resources that benefit and enhance a caregiver's well-being. In addition, the video and resource guide provide links to services available for caregivers and care recipients through the HHS Administration on Aging, HHS Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services and other state and local programs. To view the video and download the resource guide, go to the Ask Medicare site and scroll to the bottom of the page.

Or simply click here for the video: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lZa5m9kd_z4 and here for the Resource Guide: www.medicare.gov/caregivers/pdfs/Resource_and_Benefits_for_Caregivers.pdf

Ask Medicare is CMS' website for caregivers. It is as easy as logging onto www.medicare.gov/caregivers to help a friend or family member choose a drug plan, compare nursing homes, get help with billing, find local resources, and more!

New from the Medicare Learning Network®

The Adult Immunizations Brochure, which provides an overview of Medicare's coverage of

seasonal influenza, Pneumococcal, and Hepatitis B vaccines and their administration, is now available in print format. To place your order for the print version, select "MLN Product Ordering Page" in the "Related Links Inside CMS" Section on the Medicare Learning Network homepage at www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNGenInfo/01_Overview.asp.

You can also view the downloadable version at the following address:

http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/adult_immunization.pdf

For more products related to Medicare-covered preventive services, please visit our preventive services educational products website at: http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/35_PreventiveServices.asp

H1N1 Update

The Indiana State Department of Health encourages all Hoosiers to be vaccinated against H1N1 influenza. We especially encourage seniors to receive the H1N1 vaccination. Vaccine supplies were limited last fall and seniors were not identified as one of the initial priority groups. There is now plenty of vaccine available and seniors should be immunized.

While we are fortunate that flu activity has declined in recent weeks, flu activity is expected to continue for months. This virus is not going away anytime soon. February and March are generally the peak influenza season. Flu experts warn that we should prepare for a possible third wave of H1N1 that could coincide with the peak flu season. By receiving the H1N1 vaccination now, there is a window of opportunity for individuals to protect against a potential new wave of influenza during the peak flu season.

While early reports suggested that some seniors may have a degree of immunity against H1N1, many seniors do not have immunity or adequate immunity. One news report last week suggested that while the incidence of H1N1 in seniors has been less than other groups, some data suggests that the death rate in seniors contracting H1N1 has been slightly higher than other groups. It is important that seniors know that they are at least for the H1N1 virus and should therefore be vaccinated.

H1N1 vaccine is now available to all health care providers for administration. State and federal regulations require a nursing facility to offer influenza vaccination to its residents and staff. To obtain vaccine the provider needs to send a completed [provider agreement](#) to the ISDH. Once the department receives the provider agreement, the department will send the facility an order form. Once requested, the vaccine will be sent directly to the facility. There is no cost for the vaccine.

Thank you for assisting with this important vaccination program.

Thank you for your assistance in ensuring that residents and staff are vaccinated against the H1N1 virus. Best wishes for the coming week.

Terry Whitson
Assistant Commissioner
Indiana State Department of Health