

HOT TOPICS

April 11, 2016

FRAUD/ABUSE

Ten Regional Nursing Home Task Forces to Be Created: The Department of Justice has announced that it will be launching ten regional nursing home task forces throughout the nation through their Elder Justice Initiative. The goal of these task forces is to investigate nursing homes that provide “grossly substandard” care to residents. They will be composed of a members from all levels of government including representatives from the US Attorney’s offices and state Adult Protective Services agencies. For more information, visit http://www.mcknights.com/news/department-of-justice-launches-nursing-home-task-forces/article/486426/?DCMP=EMC-MCK_Weekly&spMailingID=14114215&spUserID=MTM2NDE0MDMyMDE5S0&spJobID=760052384&spReportId=NzYwMDUyMzg0S0

NY DON Charged with with Falsifying Records: The former director of nursing at a New York nursing home was indicted on charges of falsifying records. The DON is accused of falsifying records to indicate that a resident had been monitored every thirty minutes as directed by her doctor. The resident had not received the requisite monitoring and fell numerous times during the time period in question. Visit http://www.mcknights.com/news/nursing-home-don-charged-with-falsifying-records-to-cover-up-resident-fall/article/487161/?DCMP=EMC-MCK_Daily&spMailingID=14124365&spUserID=MjQ0MjEyNTAxNzY3S0&spJobID=760085796&spReportId=NzYwMDg1Nzk2S0 for more information.

Referral Agency Owner Convicted of Violating Anti-Kickback Statute: The owner of a Chicago referral agency that referred seniors to a home healthcare provider has been convicted of violating the Medicare and Medicaid Anti-Kickback Statute. She is the eleventh person convicted of receiving bribes for referring patients to the now closed Rosner Home Healthcare, and was paid approximately \$500 per referral to the company. She will be sentenced later this year and faces up to 15 years in prison. For more information, visit <https://www.justice.gov/usao-ndil/pr/chicago-marketer-convicted-illegally-pocketing-bribes-exchange-referring-elderly>

Owner of Hospice Company Accused of Speeding Up Patient Deaths: A hospice company owner from Texas has been accused of speeding up patient deaths by telling his employees to administer overdoses of medications. The man allegedly sought out patients who would likely not live much longer in order to avoid the federal reimbursement cap. No charges have been filed at this time. For more information, visit http://www.mcknights.com/news/hospice-owner-accused-of-telling-nurses-to-overdose-kill-patients/article/486423/?DCMP=EMC-MCK_Daily&spMailingID=14103691&spUserID=MjQ0MjEyNTAxNzY3S0&spJobID=742380994&spReportId=NzQyMzgwOTk0S0

Two Individuals Sentenced in Fraud Conspiracy: Two individuals, including a physician, were sentenced in a federal court in Texas for their involvement in a fraud conspiracy. The physician and the other individual were sentenced to 42 and 33 months in prison, respectively; in addition, both have been ordered to three years of supervised release and to pay restitution. The two individuals allegedly billed Medicare and Medicaid for vestibular tests that were either not necessary, not performed or not performed by a licensed party. For more information, visit <https://www.justice.gov/usao-sdtx/pr/houston-physician-and-another-sent-federal-prison-health-care-fraud-conspiracy>

PA Nursing Home Employees Win Increase in Wages: Nursing home workers at 42 Pennsylvania facilities have secured a major victory in their fight for pay increases. The workers’ negotiations have

resulted in CNAs securing \$15 per hour and other employees in non-nursing departments securing between \$13 and \$14 per hour in their new union contracts. Visit <http://www.seiuhcpa.org/2016/04/05/thousands-of-pa-nursing-home-workers-win-15-in-contract-negotiations/> for more information.

OF INTEREST

Nursing Homes Receiving More Deficiency-Free Surveys: A new report from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services has shown that more nursing homes are receiving deficiency-free surveys. The report found that the percentage of nursing homes that received deficiency-free surveys had increased from 8.8% in 2009 to 10.2% in 2014, and the percentage of nursing home surveys that found substandard quality of care had decreased from 4.4% in 2008 to 3.2% in 2014. For more information, visit http://www.mcknights.com/news/nursing-home-deficiencies-substandard-care-declining-federal-regulators-say/article/486155/?DCMP=EMC-MCK_Daily&spMailingID=14092977&spUserID=MjQ0MjEyNTAxNzY3S0&spJobID=742299909&spReportId=NzQyMjk5OTA5S0

CMS' New Initiative Aims to Reduce Hospitalizations from SNFs: The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services has introduced a new payment model that aims to reduce hospitalizations of SNF residents. The initiative would allow SNFs to provide residents with treatment for certain medical conditions that would normally require hospitalization. Under the program, SNFs would be required to purchase necessary equipment and train staff on the new treatments being offered. Additionally, the program would pay physicians at an increased rate for assessments conducted on residents at SNFs. Testing will begin at facilities in six states beginning this fall. For more information, visit http://www.mcknights.com/news/cms-unveils-new-skilled-nursing-payment-model-to-reduce-hospitalizations-costs/article/485342/?DCMP=EMC-MCK_Weekly&spMailingID=14114215&spUserID=MTM2NDE0MDMyMDE5S0&spJobID=760052384&spReportId=NzYwMDUyMzg0S0