**Hot Topic #23**

1.The Food and Drug Administration’s new policy proposal on repackaging drugs is being met with great opposition by the Long Term Care industry. The proposed policy puts new regulations on re-packaging time frames and where the packing takes place, creating a direct impact on the standard level of care required by Medicare and Medicaid. The CEO of the Senior Care Pharmacy Coalition submitted a detailed analysis and opposition letter to the FDA for consideration when drafting the final new policy provisions. See following link: <http://seniorcarepharmacies.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/SCPC-Letter-to-Jane-Axelrad-12-22-15.pdf>

2. Owner of a diagnostic company operating in Maryland, Pennsylvania and other surrounding states was sentenced to 10 years in prison for defrauding Medicare and Medicaid. The owner, Rafael Chikvashvili, failed to provide medical services to patients and billed for services he didn’t provide resulting in at least two deaths. Unlicensed radiologists and non-physician employees were instructed to interpret radiology and prepare diagnosis reports that were submitted to Medicare and Medicaid. The fraudulent scheme has cheated the government an estimated $6 million. <https://www.justice.gov/usao-md/pr/maryland-health-care-provider-sentenced-10-years-federal-prison-health-care-fraud>

3.The Medicare Fraud Strike Force has charged an *unprecedented $900 Million* in false billing, including criminal and civil charges to over 301 individuals including physicians, nurses and other licensed professionals. The defendants allegedly participated in schemes to submit claims to Medicare and Medicaid for treatments that were medically unnecessary and often never provided while allegedly receiving paid kickbacks.

<https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/national-health-care-fraud-takedown-results-charges-against-301-individuals-approximately-900>

4.Center for Medicaid and Medicare has proposed to hospitals new requirement changes to remain eligible for Medicaid and Medicare. The proposal addresses concerns over standards of practice and quality of care. Some of the changes require additional reporting of “re-admissions.” See the following link for specific criteria changes.

<https://s3.amazonaws.com/public-inspection.federalregister.gov/2016-13925.pdf>

5. A new study released by the Anals of Internal Medicine reports that 1 in 5 nursing home residents has experienced some type of resident-on-resident abuse. XinQi Dong, MD, PH.D., from the Rush Institute for Health Aging, proposes that these findings indicate traditional efforts to curb nursing home abuse may be disproportionately aimed at staff mistreatment. “We must recognize that residents may be both victims and perpetrators of [elder abuse], and avoid blaming victims or resorting to interventions of convenience, such as the use of chemical sedation or physical restraints,” Dong wrote.

<http://annals.org/article.aspx?articleid=2529053>

6. Attorney General Eric Schneiderman took legal steps to secure the safety and proper care of residents at a New York, Long Island nursing home. The AG announced a settlement of $28 million in a civil lawsuit based on a history of criminal conduct by Medford Multicare Center employees, staffing and service cuts and diversion of Medicaid funds to themselves and other entities. <http://www.ag.ny.gov/press-release/ag-schneiderman-announces-landmark-civil-settlement-long-island-nursing-home-and-its>