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If you have any news or announcements that you would like to publish in our newsletter, please send via e-mail at kcontrenchis@leadingagegulfstates.org

LEADINGAGE ANNUAL CONFERENCE & EXPO

Registration is open for the LeadingAge Annual Conference & EXPO in Philadelphia (October 28-31, 2018). [Click here](#) to register.

STUDENT PROGRAM AT LEADINGAGE ANNUAL MEETING & EXPO IN PHILADELPHIA

LeadingAge is once again offering a student program at the Annual Meeting. If you work with any University programs or host students/interns, please share this information with them. This year's program in Philadelphia will include:

- Student orientation
- Opportunity to be mentored by aging services providers
- Two keynotes
- LeadingAge Career Path - get career advice, find a mentor, etc.
- Education sessions...and more!

Scholarships are available to cover the cost of travel and registration for full time students. The Scholarship Application is now open and the deadline to apply is **Friday, September 7.**

- The link to the Student Program landing page is: <http://leadingage.org/node/15670>
- The link to the scholarship application is: <https://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/4474042/Scholarship-Application>

New Medicare Card: Order Handouts for Patients That Did Not Get Their New Cards

Has CMS finished [mailing](#) new Medicare cards in your state? [Register and order](#) (or print) new [Still Waiting for Your New Card?](#) tear-off sheets (Product #12023) and give to your Medicare patients who did not receive their cards.

Value First

Save Money on MRO

Looking for savings on maintenance, repair and operations? Whether you are in the market for new appliances and air conditioning units, or planning to replace flooring and furniture, let Value 1st vendors compete for your business.

Many Value 1st vendors are industry leaders your community may already do business with.

Reduce Ongoing Renovations Expense

If your community does a significant number of unit upgrades or renovations throughout the year, Value 1st can work with vendors to get pre-negotiated prices on appliances and other items based on anticipated volume for the year. You achieve savings on pricing based on total quantity, rather than one-off discounts. And, items can be drop-shipped as needed so you don't have to worry about storage space.

Free Cost Studies on Recurring Expenses

Value 1st members are eligible to have cost studies done free of charge. Cost studies help to identify potential savings by comparing what you are currently paying vs. Value 1st GP contract prices.

- Food and Dietary Services
- Janitorial and Housekeeping
- Medical Supplies
- Office Supplies

Contact your Value 1st Representative

For additional information contact your Value 1st representative [Chuck Gaume](#) at (512) 467-2242 x107

OSHA

Video Provides Tips on Reducing Healthcare Worker Injuries

A new video developed by OSHA Training Institute Education Centers offers guidance on how to prevent injuries from hazards in the healthcare industry, including exposure to bloodborne pathogens, chemicals and drugs, respiratory hazards, workplace violence, radioactive material and x-rays, and musculoskeletal injuries from lifting and repetitive tasks. The video will be available for free viewing from Oct. 22-26 by completing an [online registration form](#).

OSHA

OSHA Issues Memorandum Clarifying Position on Incentive Program Drug Testing

OSHA issued a memorandum clarifying the agency's position that its rule prohibiting employer retaliation against employees for reporting work-related injuries or illnesses does not prohibit workplace safety incentive programs or post-incident drug testing. The Department believes that many employers who implement safety incentive programs and/or conduct post-incident drug testing do so to promote workplace safety and health. Action taken under a safety incentive program or post-incident drug testing policy would only violate OSHA's anti-retaliation rule if the employer took the action to penalize an employee for reporting a work-related injury or illness rather than for the legitimate purpose of promoting workplace safety and health. For more information, see the [memorandum](#).

NIOSH Fact Sheet Addresses Opioid Overdoses in the Workplace

Opioid overdoses are increasing in the workplace, with the Bureau of Labor Statistics finding that between 2013 and 2016, overdose deaths from non-medical use of drugs and alcohol increased by 38 percent annually. In response to this trend, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health has released a new fact sheet, [Using Naloxone to Reverse Opioid Overdose in the Workplace](#). It provides a series of steps for employers to consider when deciding whether to make the overdose reversal medication available in the workplace. For more information, see the [news release](#). When implementing a naloxone program, employers are reminded of their responsibilities under the Occupational Safety and Health Act to provide their employees with a safe and healthful workplace.

LeadingAge News

CMS News

Proposed New Rules

Proposed rule would ease emergency prep requirements: On September 17, 2018, CMS released “**proposed**” new rules to remove unnecessary Medicare compliance requirements for healthcare facilities. A summary of the proposed changes is divided by categories. The proposed rules:

All facilities that accept Medicare and Medicaid:

- Amends the requirement to review and update the Emergency Preparedness Program (EPP) annually. The proposal would permit review every two years or potentially longer at the provider’s own discretion.
- Amends the annual training requirement to allow training to occur every two years after initial education in the EPP has occurred.
- Amends the testing requirements to permit one of the required testing exercises to be in the form of a simulation or workshop. Currently, two exercises are required annually with one of the exercises being a full scale/community based exercise. This proposal would permit more flexibility for the second exercise which currently must minimally be a paper-based table-top exercise.

To read the entire Fact Sheet visit: <https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/factsheets/medicare-and-medicaid-programs-proposed-regulatory-provisions-promote-program-efficiency-0> The proposed rule can be viewed in its entirety at: <https://s3.amazonaws.com/publicinspection.federalregister.gov/2018-19599.pdf>

New Articles Posted to MLN Matters

New:

MM10922 – Ensuring Occurrence Code 22 is Billed Correctly on Skilled Nursing Facility Inpatient Claims

<https://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM10922.pdf>

MM10981 – 2019 Annual Update of Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) Codes for Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) Consolidated Billing (CB) Update

<https://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM10981.pdf>

MM10970 – Updating Calendar Year (CY) 2019 Medicare Diabetes Prevention Program (MDPP) Payment Rates

<https://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM10970.pdf>

Revised:

FDA Medwatch

SAVE THE DATE



What if

LeadingAge®
Gulf States



2019 Annual Conference and Exhibition
Hampton Inn & Suites, New Orleans, Louisiana
May 8 – May 9, 2019