

# National Association for the Support of Long Term Care

Your Advocacy Voice for Quality In Post Acute Care

**NASL e-Newsletter – Special Edition**

July 28, 2009

## **NASL Works Up a Sweat this Summer**

The NASL Committees have been hard at work these summer months. Below is a quick rundown of current committee undertakings. We encourage you to track all committee activities on the [NASL Members Only website](#). Our staff is available to assist you during your search for the best way to manage industry concerns or challenges. Contact NASL at [membership@nasl.org](mailto:membership@nasl.org) or by calling (703) 549-8500.

### **Medical Services Committee**

The NASL Medical Services Committee has been engaged on a number of issues since the June 12 conference call. NASL delivered [comments](#) to CMS regarding the proposed rule for the Fiscal Year 2010 SNF Prospective Payment System. NASL urged CMS to withdraw its proposal on concurrent therapy and to delay its plans for Subsection T, the Look Back provision and other therapy admission and discharge provisions. NASL pointed out that flaws in the STRIVE study compromised the data CMS is using to propose many of its sweeping changes. CMS has a statutory deadline of July 31 for issuing a final rule for the SNF PPS, so we expect to see the rule shortly.

The next regularly scheduled committee call will be on Friday, August 7, at 1:00 PM EDT/12:00 PM CDT.

### **IT Committee**

NASL IT Committee members Dan Cobb and John Derr have been hard at work in their respective committee appointments. Dan has been elected to co-chair Long Term and Post Acute Care (LTPAC) Certification Workgroup at CCHIT. John is a member of the Federal HIT Standards Committee which met this week. John Derr and others continue their one-on-one meetings with representatives from the Federal Government to discuss the standardization of MDS 3.0 and OASIS-C. The IT committee is also following progress made by the Federal HIT Policy Committee as they release recommendations on meaningful use of HIT.

The IT Committee is currently preparing comments on the [proposed rule for the 2010 Physician Fee Schedule](#). Under the rule, CMS would begin accepting data from qualified EHR products on ten proposed individual PQRI measures. Eligible providers will be able to count their submission of EHR-based measures towards their eligibility for a PQRI incentive payment. The committee will also address the proposed changes to the e-prescribing incentive program given that the eligibility has broadened to include professional services furnished in skilled nursing facilities or the home care setting. As always, we welcome member input. Please send comments to [Annessa Kirby](#).

Log in to the [NASL Members Only website](#) to access NASL's comments on the definition of meaningful use and minutes from previous conference calls.

### **Medical Products Committee**

The Products Committee has discussed a rash of claims denials on enteral products that are coming out of DME MAC Jurisdiction C, administered by CIGNA Government Services, LLC (CGS). The issue involves proof of delivery, but a review of CMS and DME MAC guidance documents points to a significant number of inconsistent policies that have sent confusing signals to suppliers. While the claims denials have focused on enteral products, ambiguous CMS policies could affect other suppliers as well. NASL has collected information from suppliers and is preparing a briefing paper outlining the problem. Products Committee members will present the findings to CMS officials at a meeting in early August, where we will request administrative relief and the development of a consistent set of policies.

Tune in for the CMS DME Open Door Forum on Wednesday, July 29, at 2:00pm EDT. Dial-in number is 1-800-837-1935 and the conference ID is 16842457.

**NASL 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting - [Registration is open!](#)**  
Join us October 4-6 at the Hyatt McCormick Place in Chicago, IL.

*NASL is a trade association of ancillary providers of products and services to the post-acute industry, representing its members on Capitol Hill in legislative and regulatory issues that influence the quality of care to patients in the long term care setting. If you have questions or would like additional information, please contact NASL, 1321 Duke Street, Suite 304, Alexandria, VA 22314-3563, (703) 549-8500, [membership@nasl.org](mailto:membership@nasl.org).*

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