

Final Reminder: “Hot Topics That Can Burn You”

INHAA Conference in East Peoria on March 18-19

INHAA's “*Hot Topics That Can Burn You*” Conference will take place on March 18-19 at the Par-A-Dice Hotel and Conference Center in East Peoria. Registration without penalty is open until March 13. Ten continuing education units for administrators and nurses will be offered covering today's must-know relevant topics, including:



- The New Surveyor Guidance on F309 and F329 on Dementia Care
- Practical Steps in Reducing Psychotropic Medications
- Navigating the Changing Managed Care Landscape
- Understanding Life Safety Code through Penetration Firestop
- Clinical Management and Justification for RUGs Rehabilitation
- Being Prepared for the Medicaid RUGs 48 Audits – Don't Be Surprised and

Don't Be Caught Short

[Brochure linked here.](#)

Time to Chirp: New Background Check Portal

Any facility that tried to submit a background check on the Illinois State Police Fee Sub system found rejections after February 6, 2015 because of system failure. The State Police had been warning for the past year that the system was perilously close to its final end when it crashed on February 6. The Illinois State Police have a new system for background checks called Chirp. You must register and resubmit any transactions after February 6 via the web based CHIRP system. Please email BOI_Customer_Support@isp.state.il.us for instructions. Further information about the Chirp system is [linked here](#).

Star Struck: CMS “Rebalances” 5-Star System

CMS announced changes to the Five-Star Quality Rating System, effective February 20, 2015. The changes impact on how CMS assigns stars for two of the three components of the star-rating system: Staffing and Quality Measures. No changes were made to the survey

component of the star-rating calculations. Among the changes, CMS added two quality measures for anti-psychotic medication use for short-stay and long-stay residents; raising the threshold to achieve a high rating on all of the Quality Measures; and adjusted the Staffing component algorithms to stress RN staffing and have no less than a 3-star rating in the other two components to achieve high stars in the Staffing component. Because of the new star-rating calculations, more than one-third all facilities in the country dropped at least one star on February 20, without any actual change in the quality of care provided.

The news of the past few years has been how providers have been improving under the 5-star system, used not only by consumers but managed care companies, real estate evaluators and insurance companies. Now, CMS decided to change the rules of the game and, overnight, without any difference in care provided, more than one-third of the nursing facilities in the country, drop in their star-rating. Providers can be committed to continuous quality improvement, but when you keep moving the goalposts upon which your reputation is based, it's a lot harder to stay motivated. Thanks CMS.

The American Health Care Association has provided a summary of the changes that were made to the 5-star rating system ([click here](#) to view the summary of these changes from AHCA). AHCA has a number of resources available on their Five-Star web page (www.ahcancal.org/FiveStar), including template letters to explain the changes to payers, [a presentation](#) and instructions on how to access the Five Star reports. [Click here](#) to go to CMS' Five-Star Technical Users Guide.

Contacting the INHAA Office

Illinois Nursing Home Administrator Association Office
P.O. Box 4407, Oak Park, Illinois 60304
Phone: 708-800-6161 Fax: 708-848-4219 Email: tsullivan@inhaa.org
Association Coordinator: Terry Sullivan

Contacting INHAA Board Members

Contact Information for any of INHAA's board members can be found on the Board of Directors page at our website at www.inhaa.org.

Upcoming 2015 INHAA Events Calendar

March 18-19, 2015 Conference at the Par-A-Dice Hotel in East Peoria
June 17-18, 2015 Conference at the Chateau in Bloomington
August 5-6, 2015 Conference at the Par-A-Dice Hotel in East Peoria
November 17-18, 2015 Convention and Trade Show at the Crowne Plaza in Springfield

Administrator Licensing Information

Information about 2015 Administrator Licensure Examination dates and locations, Administrator Test Review Courses for 2015, Requirements for obtaining NHA Continuing Education Credits, and how to contact the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation (IDFPR) can be found on the IDFPR page at our website at www.inhaa.org.

Employment Alley

POSITIONS AVAILABLE:

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- At least 3+ years of experience as an Administrator for a SNF
- for-profit experience
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- Current LNHA in Illinois

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SEEKING POSITION

Interim Administrator. Experienced administrator seeking short-term interim administrator position. Capable leader, knowledgeable of state and federal regulations, and proficient in the management of a short-term rehab unit or a long term care facility while you search for a permanent administrator or fill in for your current administrator during an extended leave of absence. Willing to accept assignment in any part of the state. Contact Harry C. Poole (618-806-2125 or hcpoole@gmail.com).

Employment Alley is published monthly for members and business members. The cost for nonmembers is \$30 a month - \$50 for two months - \$70 for three months. A business member listing is \$25 for one month - \$40 for two months - \$55 for three months. Send your approximate 55-word ad and payment to INHAA, PO Box 4407, Oak Park, IL 60304 or fax it to 708-848-4219. For further information call Terry Sullivan at 708-800-6161.



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