



# The Administrator's **Advocate**

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## **Last Advocate Newsletter and Member Conference Rate – If You Are Not a 2014 INHAA Member**

This will be your last Advocate newsletter if you have not renewed or signed up to be a 2014 member professional of the Illinois Nursing Home Administrators Association. Members who have signed up or renewed have received email verifications in the past week.

As a member administrator or nursing director, you and all of the staff in your nursing facility can attend INHAA's Continuing Education-approved conferences and convention at the most reasonable continuing education rates in Illinois – at one-half to one-third of other associations. The member rate for a year is equal to the non-member charge for one conference. INHAA offers 40 quality continuing education hours every year, covering the most relevant front-line issues administrators and nursing directors confront every day. If you have not renewed for 2014, [click here for a membership brochure](#).

## **“Show Me the Money” Conference in East Peoria on March 19-20**



**INHAA's “Show Me the Money” Conference will take place on March 19-20 at the Par-A-Dice Hotel and Conference Center in East Peoria.**

Ten continuing education units for administrators and nurses will be offered covering today's must-know relevant topics, including:

- Managed Care Billing Procedures for 2014
- Negotiating Managed Care Contracts
- Top Ten F-tag Violations and How They Get Cited
- Using PEPPER to Spice Up Your Compliance Program
- A Comprehensive, Up-to-the-Minute Legislative, Regulatory and Reimbursement Update
- Making It Real, Making It Happen – Turning Staff into Caregivers.

[Brochure attached here.](#)

## **2014 Social Security, Medicare and Spousal Impoverishment Updates**

Each nursing facility is required to inform potential applicants and new admissions of their rights under Medicare and Medicaid. Some of the eligibility limits are adjusted each year by the federal government to reflect inflation. Make sure your admissions coordinator updates your admissions packet to reflect the 2014 changes:

The SNF Medicare co-insurance rates increased from \$148 in 2013 to \$152 in 2014 covering day 21 through day 100 of a Medicare Part A covered stay.

The annual Part A Medicare deductible for inpatient hospital and nursing home care rose from \$1,184 in 2013 to \$1,216 in 2014.

The standard monthly premiums for Medicare Part B will rise from \$109.80 in 2013 to \$123.10 in 2014. Starting six years ago, a higher standard Part B premium was initiated for higher-earning enrollees above \$85,000 annually for individuals and \$170,000 for couples.

The Spousal Asset Allowance and Spousal Monthly Income Allowance under Spousal Impoverishment benefits will remain at the 2013 levels of \$109,560 for Asset Allowance and \$2,739 for Monthly Income Allowance in 2014.

## Illinois and the Nation: CMS Enforcement Data

Last month, for the first time, representatives of the Illinois Nursing Home Administrators Association attended the annual two-day Region V CMS conference of the Midwest region's six state health departments, ombudsmen, and provider associations to review and discuss key issues of the past year and for the coming year. CMS shared the following comparative enforcement data between the nation and Illinois for federal fiscal year 2013 (October 1, 2012 to September 30, 2013)

	Illinois	United States
Average number of deficiencies on standard surveys	5.3	5.7
Percent cited at Level 4 (J,K,L)	1.0%	0.8%
Percent cited at Level 3 (G,H,I)	2.65%	2.1%
Percent cited at Level 2 (D,E,F)	84.6%	91.3%
Percent cited at Level 1 (A,B,C)	11.8%	5.8%
Average number of deficiencies on complaint surveys	0.6	0.6
Percent cited at Level 4 (J,K,L)	4.1	4.4
Percent cited at Level 3 (G,H,I)	10.4	8.0
Percent cited at Level 2 (D,E,F)	82.5	84.3
Percent cited at Level 1 (A,B,C)	2.9	3.3
Average total CMP fined on a per day basis	\$15,299	\$27,601
Average number of days for CMP fine	28	33
Average per instance CMP fine	\$2,509	\$2,909
Total fines collected on per day CMP (total facilities fined)	\$1,805,227(118)	\$47,887,820(1735)
Total fines collected on per instance CMP (total facilities fined)	\$35,125 (14)	\$2,653,254 (912)

## Top Ten Illinois Life Safety Code Violations and Why They Occur

At the regional CMS meeting last month, CMS released the top ten Life Safety Code violations for Illinois in the past federal fiscal year (October 1, 2012 to September 30, 2013). In 805 Illinois LSC surveys involving 776 certified providers, those top ten violations are:

K-tag	Description	# Surveys Cited	% Surveys Cited	National % Surveys Cited
K62	Sprinkler system maintenance	459	57.0%	30.1% (#1)
K144	Generators inspected/tested	455	56.5%	15.9% (#7)
K18	Corridor Doors	391	48.6%	25.2% (#4)
K29	Hazardous Areas Separation	354	44.0%	25.6% (#3)
K38	Exit Access	312	38.8%	20.6% (#5)
K25	Smoke Partition Construction	296	36.8%	18.8% (#6)
K69	Cooking Equipment	284	35.3%	12.0% (#10)
K147	Electrical Wiring and Equipment	281	34.9%	29.9% (#2)
K50	Fire Drills	251	31.2%	14.2% (#8)
K54	Smoke Detector Maintenance	242	30.1%	--

The following helpful hints were distributed by CMS Region V as to why the most frequent deficiencies are cited:

### **Top Ten K-Tag Deficiencies and Helpful Hints to Avoid Them (Deficiency numbers for Region V from FY13)**

#### **K62 – Sprinkler System Inspection, Testing, and Maintenance**

- Sprinklers cannot be painted, corroded/oxidized, loaded, or have other impediment
- The spare sprinkler cabinet must contain at least six sprinklers, with the stock being at least two of each type and temperature rating of sprinkler installed in the building. Also, there must be a special sprinkler wrench for each type of sprinkler

#### **K29 – Hazardous Areas**

- Doors for non-sprinklered hazardous areas must be at least 45 minute fire-resistance-rated (there should be unpainted labels on each door) (Existing HC)
- Hazardous area enclosures may need to be 1 hour fire-resistance-rated in addition to requiring sprinkler protection (New HC and severe hazard existing HC)
- Doors for all hazardous areas need to fully self-close (All hazardous room doors will be tested on a survey)
- Soiled utility bins need to be stored in a hazardous room when unattended
- Doors can only be held open by a device that releases upon activation of the fire alarm system, local smoke detectors, and/or the sprinkler system

#### **K18 – Corridor Doors**

- Corridor doors can be held open with a device that releases with a push or pull of the door, if the door is not required to be self-closing or automatically releases upon activation of the fire alarm system if required to be self-closing
- Corridor doors in sprinklered buildings must be smoke resisting (gap between the face of door and the stop on the frame cannot exceed .5 inch). Corridor doors in nonsprinklered buildings must be 20 minute fire-resistance-rated or be 1.75 inch solid-bonded wood core and must be smoke resisting (gap between the face of the door and the stop on the frame cannot exceed .25 inch
- Corridor doors require automatic positive latches

#### **K144 – Emergency Generators**

- Weekly visual inspections must be conducted and documented (Manufacturer's recommendation list or list of applicable items from NFPA 110 Appendix A)
- Monthly load tests must be done for a minimum of 30 minutes under load (cool down without load must be outside of the 30 minute test)
- Monthly load tests for all generators must meet one of the requirements of NFPA 110 Section 6-4.2 (There must be sufficient information to show how the load tests meet requirements)
- A remote annunciator panel must be installed in a separate location from the generator with an audible trouble signal in a location where it can be heard 24 hours a day (Remote panel trouble indicators should at a minimum mirror the trouble indicators on the generator. If no trouble indicators on generator, remote panel should consist of a general audible and visual trouble alarm)
- If generator is located indoors there must be a battery-powered emergency light in the generator room. If the generator is located outdoors then there either needs to be a battery-powered emergency light at the generator location or it needs to be accessible for a car to provide illumination with its headlights (A flashlight at the generator location does not meet this requirement)

#### **K147 – Electrical**

- Unacceptable use of power strips (Daisy-chained, high-current draw devices, medical equipment)
- Missing junction box, light switch, or electrical outlet cover plates
- Extension cords being used for more than temporary use

### **K38 – Means of Egress**

- The floor level on each side of the door must be level (In existing buildings there can be a grade change if the change is equal to that of one step)
- Delayed-egress devices can only be installed in a building that has either a complete sprinkler system or complete fire detection system. Also, there must be an instruction sign on the door with a delayed-egress device. Delayed-egress devices must release upon activation of the fire alarm or within 15 seconds of an acceptable amount of force being applied to the door for no more than three seconds. Also, there can only be one delayed-egress device in a means of egress
- Doors must open with only one releasing operation
- Means of egress must be clear and unobstructed at all times and useable in all weather conditions

### **K25 – Smoke Barriers**

- Continuity of smoke barriers (Outside wall to outside wall or other smoke barrier, and from floor to roof or floor deck above)
- Properly firestopped penetrations (Existing penetrations must resist the passage of smoke. New penetrations need an approved through penetration system)
- Properly firestopped smoke barrier/floor joint systems (flutes of corrugated metal decks cannot be left open or be filled with only insulation or other loose filled material)
- Expandable foam cannot be used (Fire rated expandable foam does not contain a fire resistance rating. It only has a flame spread rating)
- Smoke barriers must be continuous to the roof deck of a roof/ceiling assembly

### **K50 – Fire Drills**

- Fire drills must be documented (Time, date, transmission of alarm, etc.)
- Fire drills must be conducted at a frequency of one per shift per quarter
- Fire drills must be conducted under varying conditions (Time during shift, location, type of fire, etc.)

### **K56 – Sprinkler System Installation**

- Sprinklers cannot be obstructed by other objects (light fixtures, ducts, cubicle curtains, storage)
- Sprinklers must be properly spaced from other sprinklers (Distance between two sprinklers should be between 6 feet and 15 feet)
- Unsupported sprinkler pipe arm-overs cannot exceed 24 inches for steel pipe (12 inches for copper pipe)
- Sprinkler pipes must be properly supported off the building structure (hangers must be properly spaced for size and type of pipe and all installed hangers must be maintained in their installed locations)
- All areas of a building must be sprinkler protected for a building to be considered fully sprinklered (Combustible overhangs greater than 4ft, elevator machine rooms, electrical rooms, walk-in coolers/freezers, and closets are the most commonly omitted areas)

### **K52 – Testing of Fire Alarm System**

- Provide all the information required on NFPA 72 – 1999 Edition, Figure 7-5.2.2
- Provide list of inventory of all Alarm-Initiating Devices
- Individually list all of the initiating devices that were tested and results of the test.
- Lack of quarterly test of off-premises transmission equipment.

## **Contacting Our 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](mailto:tsullivan@inhaa.org)  
Coordinator: Terry Sullivan

## Employment Alley

### POSITIONS AVAILABLE:

**CEO, Presence Life Connections (PLC)** — Will provide dynamic, visionary leadership for multi-campus network of services, from short-term rehabilitation and retirement communities to full-time skilled nursing and long-term care. The ideal candidate will possess the integrity and leadership ability to successfully guide PLC through a period of transformation, securing its competitive position and ensuring long-term sustainability. This executive will bring superb interpersonal skills, outstanding business acumen and a record of success in meeting business and financial targets, gained ideally in a multi-site senior organization or other health care system. For full job description and to apply online, please visit [careers.presencehealth.org](http://careers.presencehealth.org), Keyword Search: **122919**.

**Full Time Administrator for 100 bed residential facility for DD Adults.** Requires education as mandated by the state and federal laws, supervisory experience and computer skills. Successful applicants must hold a current Illinois Nursing Home Administrator's License. Drug testing required. Send resume to Administrator, 1450 Caseville Ave, Swansea, IL 62226.

**St. Anthony's Nursing and Rehabilitation Center** in Rock Island, Illinois, is seeking an experienced Licensed Nursing Home Administrator to manage its day-to-day operations. An experienced leader is needed for our staff; an advocate for our residents and one who understands the business and regulatory requirements is a must. We are an EOE and a competitive benefit package is available. All interested applicants please apply to [hcolon@sakmgmt.com](mailto:hcolon@sakmgmt.com).

**SAK Management Services**, which is a National Healthcare Turnaround Consulting Company, is seeking experienced Licensed Nursing Home Administrators to manage day-to-day operations of several nursing homes in the State of Illinois. Experienced leaders who possess creative marketing abilities to turnaround census occupancies and who understand the business and regulatory requirements are a must. We are an EOE and a competitive benefit package is available. All interested applicants; please apply to [hcolon@sakmgmt.com](mailto:hcolon@sakmgmt.com).

**The Illinois Department of Veteran Affairs** is seeking a licensed nursing home administrator for the Illinois Veterans' Home at Manteno. Contact Ms. Jeri Gulli at 815-468-6581

### SEEKING POSITION

LNHA seeking a position as Interim Administrator. I have been an Interim Administrator at three previous facilities, as well as been a full time Administrator, with over two decades of experience in the field. I am also a Qualified Mental Retardation Professional, having worked for ARC in Springfield and was a special education teacher for ten years. I have a BA in Management from the University of Illinois. For more information, contact Linda Cox at 217-529-7657.

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.