

OCTOBER 2021

HCAW NEWSLETTER

The official publication of the Home Care Association of WA

IN THE NEWS

Click on the topics below for more information

- [The new test case for vaccine mandates? New York home care workers may show the way - Home Care Daily News - McKnight's Senior Living \(\[mcknightsseniorliving.com\]\(http://mcknightsseniorliving.com\)\)](#)
- [Annual Change in Medicaid Hospice Payment Rates Federal Fiscal Year \(FY\) 2022 —ACTION](#)
- [Survey Program : Washington State Department of Health](#)

IN THIS ISSUE:

UPCOMING EVENTS - 2

ASK DONNA - 2

COVID-19 UPDATES - 2

REGULATORY ITEMS OF INTEREST - 3

LEGISLATIVE ITEMS OF INTEREST - 3

SURVEY READINESS - 4

COMPLIANCE CORNER - 4

DEI - 5

HCAW MEMBERSHIP - 5

UPCOMING EVENTS

3 Part Webinar Series – 2021 Hospice Billing (Part 3)

October 28th, 2021

Time: 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM

Location: GoToMeeting

*Cost: \$110 for Members
\$125 for Non-Members*

[Read More...](#)

REGISTER HERE

1-Day Virtual Workshop – Palliative Care & Hospice Nursing Assistant Review: CHPNA Exam Preparation

October 28th, 2021

Time: 6:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Location: GoToMeeting

Cost: \$55 for Members

[Read More...](#)

REGISTER HERE

INSTANT OASIS HACKS with OASIS Answers, Inc. Affinity Marketing Plan- HCAW

November 18th-19th, 2021

Time: 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Location: Online

[Read More...](#)

REGISTER HERE

[See More Upcoming Events](#)

ASK DONNA

Our industry is constantly changing and it can be hard to keep track of it all. Sometimes you need help interpreting a piece of legislation, tracking down a rule, or are unsure about your next steps. Donna Goodwin, HCAW's Clinical Director, is here to answer your questions and point you in the right direction.

[Complete this form](#) and we will be in touch in 1-2 business days.

COVID-19 UPDATES

[The new test case for vaccine mandates? New York home care workers may show the way - Home Care Daily News - McKnight's Senior Living \(mcknightsseniorliving.com\)](#)

REGULATORY ITEMS OF INTEREST

[Annual Change in Medicaid Hospice Payment Rates Federal Fiscal Year \(FY\) 2022—ACTION](#)

Whistleblower Complaints in Health Care Settings -hearing is scheduled for 11-02-21 at 10 a.m. See registration link at the link below if interested. Home health and hospice are included.

[2119017whistleblowercomplaintsinhealthcaresetting102final.pdf \(wa.gov\)](#)

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_m9WMcLkwQ4a7lapmni01w

LEGISLATIVE ITEMS OF INTEREST

Bipartisan Lawmakers in U.S. House Introduce Choose Home Care Act of 2021

- **The bill would expand home-based care options for Medicare beneficiaries**
- **Strong endorsement of legislation from home health provider and patient advocacy communities**

A bipartisan group of lawmakers in the U.S. House of Representatives formally introduced the Choose Home Care Act of 2021 on October 8, 2021. The legislation designed to increase access to home health care following hospitalization for eligible Medicare beneficiaries by offering a safe, high-quality post-acute option for nursing home level services in the home.

The National Association for Home Care & Hospice (NAHC) and Partnership for Quality Home Healthcare (PQHH) today commend the introduction of the Choose Home Care Act of 2021 in the U.S. House of Representatives. Key sponsors include Henry Cuellar (D-TX) and James Comer (R-KY).

The Choose Home Care Act was also introduced in the U.S. Senate (S.2562) in July by Senators Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) and Todd Young (R-IN).



SURVEY READINESS

The Department of Health’s Office of Investigation and Inspection (OII) is responsible for ensuring that licensed in-home services agencies comply with all applicable state and federal requirements. The OII survey and investigation teams conduct routine state and federal surveys as well as complaint investigations. Washington State licenses more than 400 in-home services agencies to provide home-based personal care and health services to clients and patients within the minimum health and safety standards established [in chapter WAC 246-335](#). The OII survey team is required to survey applicants as part of the initial licensing process, and to survey licensees once during each licensure period. Initial surveys are scheduled and announced; on-going surveys are unannounced. Check out this link to find helpful resources to help you have a successful survey. (Remember – if your agency is Medicare certified you will also be surveyed against applicable Conditions of Participation (COPs)).

[Survey Program :: Washington State Department of Health](#)

COMPLIANCE CORNER

OIG Reports on Home Health Agency Infection Control Audit

An audit of eight home health agencies (HHAs) by the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) found that most had infection control policies and procedures that met the standards set by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and followed CMS COVID-19 guidance to safeguard Medicare beneficiaries, caregivers, and staff during the coronavirus pandemic, according to a report issued this week.

Nursing Commission statement on COVID-19 misinformation

The Washington State Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission supports Federation of State Medical Boards’ statement released on July 29, 2021 regarding COVID-19 vaccine misinformation. NCQAC expands this statement to include nurses in Washington State and does not limit this perspective to vaccines but broadly applies this standard to all misinformation regarding COVID-19 treatments and preventive measures such as masking. Nurses who generate and spread COVID-19 misinformation, or disinformation, erode the public trust in the nursing profession and endangers patients.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION



HCAW is dedicated to increasing Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) within our industry. Please join us in this endeavor by taking a moment to read the articles below.

The Home Care Association of Washington is seeking qualified volunteers to serve on our Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion committee. If you are interested in participating, please submit your interest to participate today at info@hcaw.org.

- [4 Steps to Making Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Part of Your Company's Culture](#)

HCAW MEMBERSHIP

We want you to join our community of members! Here's why.....

- We offer a community, resources, and strong voice for professionals providing care in the home.
- Our membership is for your entire team! Members include managers, directors, aides, nurses, dietitians, finance managers, c-suite executives, and all other professionals who support care in the home.
- Free and reduced cost premium education that impacts your work.
- Tools and resources to improve your agency.
- HCAW advocates for our members and industry both here in Washington state and throughout the nation.
- Up to date news that impacts you.

[**CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE**](#)