



Wisconsin Assisted Living Association

News Blast

December 8, 2011

WALA has Moved!

**As of October 1, 2011
our new address is**

**1414 MacArthur Rd
Suite 311
PO Box 7730
Madison WI
53707-7730**

Hope you are enjoying your holiday season! WALA is looking forward to the New Year, and the new Educational Sessions, Products and Member Services that will come your way. Stay tuned to the WALA Website at www.ewala.org current information.

Are you following us on Facebook? If not, come join and hear updates about Education, Legislative activity, Regulatory issues and many more topics.

Like us on Facebook 

Follow us on 

Don't forget about our newest membership benefit - ability to write on the WALA Wall!

It's an online discussion forum that lets you talk about hot button topics, like Family Care, with other members. Contact the WALA office for more information.

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Virtual Pace Town Hall Forum Update

The Department of Health Services has been hosting a series of Virtual PACE town hall forums to get input from consumers, advocates, and providers in the last couple of months. The latest was held in Milwaukee on December 1, 2011.

Available on the DHS website <http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/wipartnership/pace/> is the Summary of the Virtual PACE Program Proposal, grant submissions, and the announcements of the Town Hall meetings.

In addition links to online surveys, so that you can comment on the Virtual PACE program, are available at <http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/wipartnership/pace/>. Further outreach and input mechanisms are continuing to be identified and developed.

The current separation of Medicare and Medicaid payment for services and the lack of access to coordinated care create administrative barriers to the promise of full integration into a community setting, which prevents the best possible member outcomes. This proposal intends to break down some of those barriers.

Please feel welcome to give WALA your input on this program as well by email or call us at info@ewala.org or 608/288-0246.



New Memos from DQA/BAL

NEW Draft Memos on Electronic Surveillance

[Draft Memo - Resident Use of Electronic Surveillance Devices in Private Living Areas- AFH/CBRFs/DD/NH](#)

[Draft Memo - Resident Use of Electronic Surveillance Devices in Private Living Areas - RCAC/Hospice](#)

Please send your comments/edits to WALA by **December 19, 2011** at jmurphy@ewala.org or 608/288-0246.

DQA Memo 11-030

Adult Family Home Training Requirements

http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/rl_DSL/Publications/11-030.htm

The purpose of this memorandum is to identify the training requirements for adult family home service providers and licensees and describe the sources of training that are acceptable to the Department.

DQA Pharmacy Newscapsule/ September - October 2011

http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/rl_dsl/Publications/PharmCapsule.htm

For more information about the DQA Numbered Memos or to receive these memos and more on the ListServ go to http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/rl_DSL/Publications/BQAnodMems.htm



Medicare To Cover Weight Loss Counseling

By: Patti Neighmond, NPR

December 1, 2011

Medicare has announced that it will pay for primary care providers to

counsel obese patients on losing weight and maintaining the weight loss. Medicare will pay doctors, nurses and physicians' assistants to help plan weight loss programs.

View the transcript or hear the story at <http://www.npr.org/2011/12/01/142987445/medicare-to-cover-weight-loss-counseling>



Study Indicates Activities of Daily Living Slows Dementia Progress

From: ALFA - WALA is ALFA's State Affiliate

A new German study found that those with dementia who engaged in a therapy that included mental, physical, and spiritual activities postponed a decline in cognitive abilities without the use of any pharmacological intervention.

Researchers from the Friederich-Alexander University in Erlangen, Germany followed five nursing homes for 12 months. They compared the outcomes of two groups: one who received the standard treatment, and another who received a new highly structured intervention. Those receiving the new intervention were not given any medications for their dementia, but they still received standard nursing care and were not restricted in their daily activities. The intervention, called MAKS, consisted of motor stimulation, such as bowling or croquet; activities of daily living, such as gardening and crafts; cognitive stimulation, such as individual or group puzzles; and a spiritual element, such as singing hymns and discussing topics like happiness. The activities were conducted two hours a day, six days a week and were led by registered nurses.

Researchers found the use of MAKS therapy a significant predictor of cognitive function, and participants engaged in activities of daily living outside the program had even better outcomes. Researchers concluded the therapy performed at least as well as cholinesterase inhibitors, the medication used to treat the other group. "MAKS therapy is able to extend the quality of, and participation in, life for people with dementia within a nursing home environment," said lead researcher, Prof. Elmar Graessel. "[More research is needed] to see if this prevention of dementia decline can be maintained over a longer time period."

Read more about the study, [Structured Group Activity Slows Dementia Progress](#).

For more information on ALFA go to www.alfa.org

Sincerely,

Jim Murphy, Executive Director
Sarah Bass, Operations Director

Wisconsin Assisted Living Association