

**Friday Review—10/25/19**

Well, we made it to the end of another week. Congratulations! Looks like a 50-50 weekend weatherwise so you better get that yardwork done tomorrow.

**PDPM, The Latest**—The updates from AHCA are coming through almost daily. Here is the latest from this afternoon: “We are carefully monitoring member experiences with claims submission and MAC responses.  Please email us at pdpm@ahca.org with MAC responses to claims submissions and/or screen shots of MAC responses but with no patient identifying information, of course.  You also may use the member experience form located [here](https://ahcancal.wufoo.com/forms/rb6cugl08tre63/) for your responses. Today and Monday we will be in discussions with CMS and any information to document challenges and identify solutions would be greatly appreciated.”

Yesterday, was the CMS target date for Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs) to begin processing PDPM claims.  **CMS indicated the MACs would need until October 24th to load, test, and launch the update.**  As of yesterday afternoon, AHCA has heard some MACs still are indicating October claims are on hold while others are accepting claims but producing confusing results.

**Tougher Inspections on the way?**—Some of you have suspected this and some have already experienced it. The Feds are holding inspectors even more accountable. From today’s Provider Daily….<http://www.providermagazine.com/news/Pages/2019/1019/CMS-to-Toughen-Oversight-of-State-Inspections-of-SNFs.aspx>

**Thank you**—Thank you to the folks from EOHHS and DHS for coming to RIHCA for one of their periodic update meetings this week. We had a full house! While processing new applications seems to be getting a bit better, concerns about backlogged applications persist from months or years past. There was no shortage of questions from our members. We hope to set up one more meeting before the year ends.

**News about a new Alzheimer’s Drug**—Provider Daily reported on a couple of articles about a new Alzheimer’s drug. First this in the Wall Street Journal: <https://www.wsj.com/articles/biogen-in-reversal-to-seek-fda-ok-for-alzheimers-drug-after-further-analysis-11571744526>.

Then there was this article from the New York Times: <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/10/22/health/alzheimers-dementia-aducanumab.html>

**Federal help for nursing home hiring?**—It is still very early in the process, but a Congresswoman from New York has proposed legislation that may offer some workforce help if it passes.

<https://buffalonews.com/2019/10/22/gillibrand-says-her-bill-would-improve-nursing-home-hiring/>

**Did we really need a study for this?—**The results of a study released this week show that alcohol combined with certain drugs can create a greater risk for falls among seniors. (I would think this might be true for people of any age.)

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-falls-alcohol/drinking-with-certain-drugs-tied-to-fall-risk-for-seniors-idUSKBN1X22G0>

**Congratulations Team STEPPS!**—The months long Team STEPPS program wrapped up this week. Congratulations to the graduates. You can see the participants in this week’s session in the attached photo.

Those of you who aren’t football fans are probably getting tired of this closing message. But the Patriots are still undefeated, so I can’t stop now. Go Pats! Hope you all have a great weekend!