

**Friday Review—12/13/19**

Happy Friday the 13th! Hope your day is going well and that you don’t suffer from triskaidekaphobia (that is, fear of the number 13.)

**More money for Medicaid in Maine**—The Governor of Maine is releasing a bill to increase Medicaid funding. Let’s hope Governor Raimondo feels the same way in the next budget session. Here is the article from Portland: <https://www.pressherald.com/2019/12/09/mills-releases-bill-to-boost-funds-to-maine-nursing-homes/>

**Des Moines Register agrees**—The editors of the Des Moines (Iowa) Register agree. They published an editorial this week advocating more Medicaid funding for long term care. <https://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/opinion/editorials/2019/12/12/medicare-should-cover-long-term-care-services-buttigieg-editorial/2629628001/>

**Medicaid days up, Medicare days down**—It certainly is no surprise to anyone reading this newsletter, that Medicaid’s resident days have hit an all time high while Medicare days are at a record low. You can read more in this article in Skilled Nursing News. <https://skillednursingnews.com/2019/12/medicaids-share-of-nursing-home-revenue-resident-days-hits-record-high-as-medicare-drops-to-historic-low/>

**More Federal restrictions may be coming**—A new bill may be introduced into the US Congress later this month to place even further restrictions on nursing homes. We will keep any eye on this and let you know if the bill is actually introduced. Here is more information: <https://skillednursingnews.com/2019/12/inside-washingtons-latest-nursing-home-regulatory-push-forensic-abuse-analysis-potential-ownership-scrutiny/>

**Where you live may be a predictor of Alzheimer’s**—A study was published earlier this month that showed a significant geographic variation for the incidence of Alzheimers. You can read more here:

<https://www.healio.com/psychiatry/alzheimers-disease-dementia/news/online/%7B7f593453-8c85-4d22-afb0-543db1359a6a%7D/alzheimers-incidence-varies-significantly-by-location>

**Happy Nurses**—Another recent study shows that long term care nurses who are more engaged, given adequate orientations and more organizational space are more satisfied with their jobs. This certainly makes sense. You can read more in McKnight’s here:

<https://www.mcknights.com/news/study-links-ltc-nurse-satisfaction-to-work-engagement-empowerment/>

**Dementia Cafes**—More and more we are hearing about long term care facilities that are setting up dementia cafés. This article highlights their success.

<https://www.mcknightsseniorliving.com/home/news/dementia-cafes-gaining-acceptance-around-the-globe/>

That’s if for this week. Hope you have a great weekend. Try to stay dry tomorrow. And let’s see if we can get our boys back on the winning track this week. It is “on to Cincinnati.” Go Pats!