

**Friday Review—12/20/19**

Happy Friday to all! No need to panic, yet, you still have a few more shopping days left!

**E-prescribing reminder**—Just a reminder from an email sent earlier this week. As of January 1st, all prescriptions for Class II-V controlled substances must be electronically prescribed. While this new law is aimed at physicians and hospitals, it will obviously have a direct impact on us and our residents. If you have specific questions about this new law (passed in 2017) please contact Victoria Ayers at DOH, at 222-2507. (You might want to hold on to this name and number.)

**Congratulations to many!**—AHCA announced this week that 61 of 64 RIHCA member facilities achieved at least one of four national Quality Initiative goals this year. Of that number, 13 homes achieved all four, 30 achieved three out of four, 15 members met two of the four goals, and an additional three homes achieved one of the national quality goals. Well done all!

**Employment numbers dropping**—Skilled Nursing News says employment in our industry is dropping. Is there a connection with PDPM? Here is the article: <https://skillednursingnews.com/2019/12/nursing-home-employment-numbers-slide-again-in-november/>

**Mandatory wage hikes**—For the last several years, there have been proposals at the Rhode Island legislature to raise the minimum wage to $15/hour. We fully expect supporters of this plan will be back in force during the upcoming session. Here is some interesting reading about unintended consequences of mandating wage increases:

<https://www.mcknights.com/daily-editors-notes/when-mandated-wage-hikes-meet-unintended-consequences/>

**Unsettling statistic**—The New York Times reports that frail older adults are more likely to die than other patients after even routine minor surgery. <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/12/13/health/frail-elderly-surgery.html>

**Keep up the workouts!**—We all know that exercise is good for us. Some of us even practice good exercise habits. In older folks, regular exercise can reduce or prevent the risk of falls. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-elderly-fitness-falls/exercise-reduces-falling-risk-for-older-adults-idUSKBN1YN2CC>

**Exercise before surgery also helps**—It is called “pre-habbing” and this article in HealthDay says it can actually improve recovery! <https://consumer.healthday.com/general-health-information-16/misc-surgery-news-650/prehab-before-surgery-helps-speed-seniors-recovery-752877.html>

**Enhanced barrier precautions—new guidance for nursing homes**--With the need for an effective response to the detection of serious antibiotic resistance threats in nursing homes, CDC recently released new guidance on the implementation of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). EBP is indicated for residents with novel or targeted MDROs including pan-resistant organisms, carbapenemase-producing organisms, and *Candida auris*. In addition, EBP is indicated for residents with indwelling medical devices and wounds, who are at high risk for acquiring and being colonized with MDRO’s when they reside on the same unit as a resident colonized or infected with a novel or targeted MDRO.

<https://www.cdc.gov/hai/containment/PPE-Nursing-Homes.html>

<https://emergency.cdc.gov/coca/calls/2019/callinfo_102419.asp> (a webinar can be found here)

Looking ahead to next year…..

**Mixed Projections for 2020**—Demand for skilled nursing services is going up. That’s the good news. In spite of this, margins continue to get tighter. Here is the full article:

<https://skillednursingnews.com/2019/12/mixed-skilled-nursing-projections-for-2020-increased-demand-but-margin-pressure-continues/>

**More predictions for next year**—Here are the top skilled nursing trends for 2020, as predicted by Skilled Nursing News: <https://skillednursingnews.com/2019/12/the-top-skilled-nursing-trends-of-2020-and-beyond/>

**National Skilled Nursing Care Week is May 10-16**—The theme for 2020 is Sharing Our Wisdom.

<https://nfp-news.blogspot.com/2019/12/sharing-our-wisdom-announced-as-2020.html?j=104448414&sfmc_sub=1430920252&l=1216785_HTML&u=2761241219&mid=10422954&jb=12>

And that will wrap up Friday Review for the week and the year! I appreciate the support received since we began in August. Due to the upcoming holidays, Friday Review will not publish next week, but we will be back with more in the new year. Here’s wishing you a very Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, and good wishes for anything else you may be celebrating. I hope you get to spend quality time with family and friends.

May we all look forward to a happy, healthy new year (and yikes, a new decade!) Let’s hope for good things ahead for the nursing home industry in Rhode Island and nationwide.

Peace.