

**Friday Review—4/23/21**

Good afternoon and Happy Friday! You made it through the week! Give yourself a pat on the back.

**Recoupments extended**—In today’s group call with EOHHS, it was announced that recoupments will be extended for another year, up until June of 2022. An email with this information was supposed to be sent to all today. It will also contain a new schedule for repaying any money that is still owed. If you wish to repay before in advance, you will still be able to do so.

**Resuming EOHHS meetings**—Today marked the resumption of our regular meetings with EOHHS and DHS. We have held these meetings in the past, in person, primarily for business office personnel. A slide deck of today’s presentation will be forwarded shortly. We plan to set up a regular schedule of these meetings in the coming months.

**CNA testing**—As you know, CNA testing for licensure continues to be a serious problem. On a call with RIDOH today, we were asked if any of our member homes would like to sign up to be a test site. Also, RNs are needed to serve as test evaluators. The new contractor has not been able to hire enough people to serve as evaluators for these exams. If you would like to have your home serve as a test site, contact Ellen Balasco at RIDOH: ellen.balasco@health.ri.gov.

**Temporary CNAs**—We are hearing more and more instances of CNA students showing up for testing, only to have the test postponed, or randomly having their test dates moved. We realize this causes major problems for the student. We also realize this causes some students to be in danger of having their temporary licenses expire. If you are having any of these issues, please contact Ellen Balasco (see email address above) with the name of your student(s) so that RIDOH can remedy the situation.

**Rebuilding census**—One industry expert says nursing homes should learn from the home health care industry on this topic. <https://skillednursingnews.com/2021/04/why-nursing-home-operators-should-borrow-the-home-health-playbook-when-rebuilding-census/?euid=a3545010f7&utm_source=snn-newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=2c77c948f2>

**Changes coming**—Medicare rate adjustments, cuts in PDPM, more federal money for home care—in spite of all this AHCA’s Mark Parkinson is still optimistic on the future of nursing homes. <https://skillednursingnews.com/2021/04/parkinson-looming-pdpm-changes-400b-home-care-push-dont-signal-doom-for-nursing-homes/?euid=a3545010f7&utm_source=snn-newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=3ad8db73fe>

**HCBS**—The Biden administration plans to provide some $400 billion for home and community based services. What will this mean for nursing homes? <https://skillednursingnews.com/2021/04/what-bidens-400b-plan-to-shift-long-term-care-home-could-mean-for-nursing-home-operators/?euid=a3545010f7&utm_source=snn-newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=3ad8db73fe>

**Agency staffing**—The use of agency staffing and payment of overtime has reached its highest levels of the pandemic. <https://skillednursingnews.com/2021/04/despite-vaccine-and-occupancy-progress-operators-report-record-high-use-of-temps-overtime/?euid=a3545010f7&utm_source=snn-newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=dbd0161878>

**Cybersecurity insurance**—Major premium increases are in store for cybersecurity insurance due to ransomware threats and payouts. <https://www.mcknights.com/news/ransomware-bulls-eye-grows-clouding-telehealths-rise-in-long-term-care/>

**Employee scheduling**—Allowing employees to have a say in their own work schedules helps avoid workforce challenges. <https://www.mcknights.com/news/strategies-for-success-employee-engagement-through-scheduling-called-a-key-for-retention/>

**Florida legislation**—A bill making its way through the Florida legislature allows personal care attendants to take on some of the duties of a CNA. <https://www.news4jax.com/news/florida/2021/04/21/bill-aims-to-make-personal-care-attendants-fixture-in-long-term-care-facilities/>

It looks like a 50-50 weather weekend ahead. Hope you can get out and enjoy the day tomorrow. Maybe some yardwork or gardening before the rain on Sunday. But try to find some time to relax and recharge as well. And by the way….the Sox are in first place!

Have a great weekend!