

**Friday Review—6/25/21**

Good afternoon and Happy (gray) Friday! Fear not, summer heat and humidity are due to return over the weekend.

**Diversified services**—Offering diversified services and having a diverse payor mix are keys to the post-pandemic future for nursing homes. <https://skillednursingnews.com/2021/06/diversified-service-lines-make-snfs-better-positioned-for-post-pandemic-world/?euid=a3545010f7&utm_source=snn-newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=2b63bc79b7>

**More complex residents**—To go along with the above article, nursing homes are now seeing new residents who are sicker and in need of more complex medical and behavioral health services. <https://skillednursingnews.com/2021/06/snf-patients-face-increasingly-complex-problems-and-operators-need-to-plan-accordingly/?euid=a3545010f7&utm_source=snn-newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=f4355af2b5>

**Is consolidation coming?**—Some experts are predicting that regional consolidation is on the horizon for the skilled nursing facility community. <https://skillednursingnews.com/2021/06/conditions-are-ripe-for-industry-consolidation-as-nursing-homes-emerge-from-pandemic/?euid=a3545010f7&utm_source=snn-newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=7e9bb93f49>

**Staffing shortages everywhere**—A new survey by AHCA shows 94% of homes around the country are experiencing staffing issues. <https://www.providermagazine.com/Breaking-News/Pages/New-Survey-Shows-Urgent-Need-for-Workforce-Investments-in-Long-Term-Care.aspx>

**Minimum staffing in New York**—Governor Cuomo has signed into law bills calling for mandatory minimum staffing in New York nursing homes and hospitals. <https://www.mcknights.com/news/new-minimum-staffing-mandates-finalized-for-ny-providers/>

**Staffing and immigration**—Several long-term care industry groups are looking to immigration reform as a way to solve staffing problems. <https://www.mcknightsseniorliving.com/home/news/industry-continues-to-look-to-immigration-reform-to-help-address-workforce-shortages/>

**Family pressure**—Families are putting pressure on long-term care providers to ease COVID-19 restrictions. <https://www.mcknights.com/news/providers-struggling-with-family-pressures-to-loosen-covid-restrictions/>

**Locally…**It is expected that the declaration of emergency in RI will be coming to an end in early July. Just the same, on a call with RIDOH today, they stated that, per CMS guidelines, screening will continue even after the official emergency ends.

**Local vax reporting**—As you know, you must report your vaccination rates for both residents and staff every week through the NHSN portal. As for state reporting, RIDOH told us today that you only need to post your staff and resident vaccination rate, in total percentages, on your website. These numbers should be updated every month, at a minimum, and should also be posted in your facility.

**Pain and quality of life**—A new study says elimination of pain for nursing home residents is unrealistic. Instead, homes should focus on improving the quality of life for residents. <https://www.mcknights.com/news/clinical-news/pain-management-only-30-percent-effective-in-ltc-aim-for-quality-of-life-and-function-experts-urge-clinical-teams/>

**Meds and memory**—Some blood pressure drugs may protect a patient’s memory, according to a new study. <https://consumer.healthday.com/6-21-your-blood-pressure-med-might-be-protecting-your-memory-2653402556.html>

**See you Monday!**—RIHCA’s annual golf tournament will be this Monday at Kirkbrae Country Club in Lincoln. We have a big field signed up, some great raffle prizes, and possibly even an adult beverage or two. Thank you to all our sponsors and all who have donated to make this event a success! And thanks also to Katie Norman and her team of volunteers who have a fun day planned for all. I look forward to seeing you Monday at Kirkbrae!

**See you tonight?**—As you may recall from last week, the Newport Gulls baseball team is hosting a Front Line Heroes night tonight at Cardines Field in Newport. Game time is 6:30. Just show your employee badge and you get in free. Baseball and Newport in the summertime. It’s all good!

And today is officially the last day of school for the entire state. What a school year it has been, for students, teachers and administrators. The kids are thrilled, and the teachers and administrators are exhausted. Here’s to a safe, happy and relaxing summer vacation for all!

Have a great weekend!