

**Friday Review (on Wednesday) 11/27/19**

Good afternoon and Happy Thanksgiving Eve! Since some of you will be traveling, and some will be off on Friday, and since we have lots of news to share, this week’s Friday Review is coming to you today.

**RoP Phase 3 Update**—Some of you have been asking about updates on the implementation of Phase 3 of RoP. As you know it is due to take effect tomorrow. AHCA sent out an update just a few days ago, and you can find more information here in this article from Skilled Nursing News. <https://skillednursingnews.com/2019/11/cms-to-have-limited-survey-capacity-for-new-nursing-home-requirements-of-participation/>

**Federal staffing bill**—A senator from Connecticut wants to increase staffing minimums under Medicare and Medicaid. This was just introduced, but bears careful watching. AHCA President Mark Parkinson has already issued a statement opposing the legislation. The details of the bill are here: <https://skillednursingnews.com/2019/11/new-nursing-home-safety-bill-would-increase-staffing-minimums-levy-10k-day-fines/>

**Negative Operating Margins**—By now, many of you have read the CLA report that shows a median operating margin of below 0. But this article says that operators can turn this margin around in the coming years. <https://skillednursingnews.com/2019/11/why-the-median-skilled-nursing-margin-fell-below-0-and-how-operators-can-come-up-from-underwater/>

**A Presidential Plan**—The Presidential elections are still just about a year away. Candidates continue to throw their hats into the ring. However, one candidate, Pete Buttigieg, has unveiled his plan for long-term care. Here are the details: <https://time.com/5738121/pete-buttigieg-long-term-care-retirement/>

**AHCA and workforce issues**—Finding quality staffers for open positions is something long-term care facilities around the country are struggling with. AHCA/NCAL is offering a 45-minute on-line training to try to help. There is a cost, and proceeds are split between AHCA/NCAL and state affiliates, but if you think it would be helpful, you might want to check it out. The details are contained in a link to this email.

**Missing higher reimbursement?**—Under PDPM, some providers may be missing out on higher reimbursement. You can learn more in this article in Provider Daily. <https://www.mcknights.com/news/pdpm-1st-month-analysis-pay-is-higher-but-providers-still-leaving-money-on-the-table/>

**Lower admissions**—Have you been seeing fewer admissions at your facility? Well, you are not alone. All 50 states have seen a decline. <https://skillednursingnews.com/2019/11/skilled-nursing-admissions-drop-across-the-country-as-home-health-discharges-pull-ahead/>

**2020 Quality Awards**—While the deadline for putting in your Intent to Apply for next year’s Bronze, Silver or Gold Quality Award has passed, you still have time to apply. That’s because the actual deadline to apply is January 23, 2020. You must do so through the AHCA Quality Award Portal. To date, six Rhode Island homes have announced their intent to apply for the Bronze Award, and two will be going for the Gold! Good luck to all!

**On a personal note**—Since this is the time of year to give thanks, I want to thank all of you for your help and support in my first year here at RIHCA. I have met many incredible people and I am continually impressed when I hear about or witness stories of the caring, love and compassion given to our residents in our homes each and every day. I am proud to be a very small part of promoting the good works of the long-term care industry in Rhode Island. I thank you all for your hard work and devotion in caring for our fellow Rhode Islanders who may no longer be able to care for themselves. Thank you for all that you do. Happy Thanksgiving!

And of course, we cannot end a Friday review, without a shout out to our Patriots. They barely squeaked by last Sunday, but a win is a win is a win. Another tough task this week, but I believe the boys are up to it. So of course, let us end all saying together, Go Pats!