

To the Point



From the desk of
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April 2018



If You See Something, Say Something

This message is just as applicable as identifying risks to patient safety as it is potential terrorist activity. Recently, Dr. Carmen Rexrode, medical director at Pendleton Manor in West Virginia noted that a resident whose weight was fluctuating was not “flagging” in the medical record. Her observation triggered a deeper dive and revealed that there was a coding error that resulted in the alert not being generated. This has now been corrected. If you see something you are concerned about, please don’t keep it to yourself – we all need to work together to continuously improve!

Synopsis of Federal Regulations

Click [here](#) for the electronic copy of the Synopsis of Federal Regulations. It distills the essence of what you need to know about regulations. If you have trouble logging in, click [here](#) for guidance.

Prepare for Emergencies

The Worst Case Scenario Survival game is entertaining, but in real life, advance preparation can make all the difference in the world. This is a regulatory as well as a common sense requirement. Please review [The Medical Director Role – Emergency Preparedness in Long Term Care](#), and then visit with your administrator and director of nursing services to make sure you are all on the same page.

Prescriber’s Corner

[Deprescribing medications](#) in senior residents has been well-documented to improve their quality of

life and reduce avoidable hospitalizations. Make a point of working with your consultant pharmacist to whittle down medication lists. Collaboration with the pharmacist and participating in reviews of hospitalization have been added to the PBJ list of activities for you to track monthly.

[Deprescribing.org](#) provides actionable evidence-based guidelines and algorithms specific to proton-pump inhibitors, antihyperglycemics, antipsychotics, benzodiazepines, as well as cholinesterase inhibitors and memantine.

Influenza Vaccination

This was a lethal flu season. Thank you for your efforts to protect our residents and employees through immunization. Across the Society’s rehab/skilled care locations, the employee vaccination rate was 58 percent and resident vaccination rates were 92 percent. We’re already planning how to improve those numbers next year.

AMDA-The Society for Post-Acute and LTC Medicine

It was great to see so many of you in Texas at the annual AMDA meeting. Plan to attend next year’s event on March 7-10, 2019, in Atlanta, Georgia. I promise, it will be worth your time!

Up Your Game

The Society helps cover costs to [become a certified medical director](#) – please consider it!

Questions? Email vwalker3@good-sam.com.

Our vision: To create an environment where people are loved, valued and at peace.

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