

To the Point



From the desk of
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Chief Medical and Quality Officer

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Medical Director in the Spotlight

Dr. Joe Rees is a geriatrician inspired to pursue a geriatric fellowship when he witnessed the impact transitions of care had on hospitalized elderly patients.

During his fellowship, he is serving as the assistant medical director for Avera eCare Senior Care and the medical director for GSS in Austin, MN. His favorite part of his job is the relationships with patients and their family members. Dr. Rees is a busy family man who is married with three children in elementary and middle school.

Leadership Triad-AMDA Webinar

If you missed our GSS-Fort Collins team presentation on the Leadership Triad, be sure to [check it out](#). Dr. Roger Bermingham, Administrator Fred Pitzl, and Director of Nursing Wendy Walters share the wins they have experienced working as a leadership triad. CME and Administrative continuing education credits are available.

Pharmacy Update

De-prescribing is a topic of great interest in geriatrics, and is particularly relevant for those who are in long-term care. If you have residents who are on more than nine medications, they are at significant risk of negative side effects and drug interactions. On a monthly basis, the consultant pharmacist is completing a medication review – this is a great collaboration opportunity to identify medications where the risks outweigh the benefits. Reach out to your consultant pharmacist and schedule time to visit the center together. Great things happen through teamwork!

Regulatory Updates

CMS announced an [18-month delay](#) in enforcement of some of the Phase 2 requirements of participation. This is good news, but the expectation of compliance is still there; we just have a little more grace time to get used to them. If you're struggling to keep up with the complex regulations for nursing facilities, AMDA has a very helpful resource, the **Synopsis of Federal Regulations**, which will be available to you through your AMDA membership at no cost. A link will be sent to you as soon as it is available.

Registration

An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure – the [Medical Provider Guidelines](#) spell out in clear language the regulatory and GSS expectations for all medical providers. Please check with your administrator to make sure these were provided to every physician, nurse practitioner and physician's assistant who provides on-site services in your SNF. Please check with your administrator to make sure this has been completed.

Influenza Vaccinations

Ask what the vaccination rate for employees and residents at your center is. If you are less than 100%, ask how you can help increase it.

2018 would be a great year to [become a certified medical director](#). GSS will help cover the costs.

Questions? Vwalker3@good-sam.com

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

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