

# To the Point



*From the desk of*  
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## Pharmacy Update

The IMPACT act passed in 2014 is trying to create “apples to apples” reporting from different post-acute settings so they can be compared for quality and cost outcomes. One way this impacts nursing homes is that it is requiring us to formally document whether any significant issues were detected during the drug regimen review.

Importantly, as of Oct. 1, 2018 we must request, receive response and act on a physician’s recommendation to address any potentially clinically-significant medication issue uncovered by the drug regimen review by midnight of the next day. This makes your active participation in reviewing the consultant pharmacist’s notes even more important. You should be reading and responding to these notes on a regular basis. Since March, we have asked you to record the time you are spending on this.

Every month, we see a higher number that are capturing this, but we still fall far short of the desired goal. Medications can be miraculous, but all too often, they are causing serious side effects. Please be an active team member in reviewing and simplifying medication regimens whenever possible, and ensuring that appropriate monitoring is taking place.

## Influenza...it is here

We’ve already had the first case of influenza reported. Influenza vaccination of our employees and residents will be a high priority over the next month, and throughout the season we will also focus on ensuring new employees and residents are vaccinated. Please consider meeting with any employees who refuse vaccination to help them understand the negative impact this can have on their community. We are aiming to

have 75 percent of our employees vaccinated this year, and your help will be necessary to get there.

## Prevention of Avoidable Hospital Transfers

In our last newsletter, I asked you to become actively involved in evaluating re-hospitalizations. A number of you requested a bit more detail about this, and in response we developed a [handy guide](#) to assist you in this task. I know you care about providing the best care possible, and I assure you that your insights and leadership are invaluable to achieving this.

## Fair Market Value

You are all aware that we have been updating all of our medical director agreements to follow a consistent process for establishing fair market value. In response to questions about how to account for after-hours responsibilities, I am asking you to complete a survey to provide more detail about the frequency and type of situations that you are asked to respond to after hours. [Click here](#) to start the survey. Thank you for taking the time to provide feedback. This will help us better understand how to support you.

## AMDA-The Society for Post-Acute and LTC Medicine

Remember to take advantage of your AMDA membership. Towards the end of the year, we are frequently scrambling to make sure we have earned the necessary CME for licensing and certification. This is a great way to get FREE continuing education that will make a difference in work you do every day. [Click here](#) to learn how to access this. Also, remember, the Society helps cover costs to [become a certified medical director](#) – please consider taking advantage of this exceptional professional development opportunity.

Questions? Email [ywalker3@good-sam.com](mailto:ywalker3@good-sam.com).

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

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