Here are Care Providers Oklahoma latest updates as of April 27, 2020

[**COVID-19 Update #51**](https://www.ahcancal.org/facility_operations/disaster_planning/Documents/Update%2051.pdf) **| CMS Updates on Nursing Home Compare, Five Star, Staffing Data and FAQs**

On April 24, 2020, CMS released [a memo with updates](https://www.cms.gov/files/document/qso-20-28-nh.pdf) on Nursing Home Compare, Five Star, public staffing information, and a list of frequently asked questions.

**Inspection Domain of Five Star Quality Rating System Will NOT be Updated Due to Prioritization of Surveys**

CMS will temporarily hold constant the inspection domain of Five Star to prevent an unequal impact on the rating for those facilities who receive a survey during this time. This freeze will begin with the scheduled Nursing Home Compare update on April 29, 2020.

**Release of Certain Staffing Information**

CMS will use Payroll-Based Journal staffing data to publicly report the average number of staff onsite at each nursing home each day (both nursing staff and total staff) and will also post aggregated data at a state and national level.

**Continuing Restrictions on Visitors in LTC**

Even as states are beginning to lift their stay at home orders, nursing homes must continue to maintain current restrictions on visitors. As a reminder, CMS [released guidance](https://www.cms.gov/files/document/qso-20-14-nh-revised.pdf) on March 13 that required all nursing homes to significantly restrict visitors and nonessential personnel, as well as restrict communal activities. The guidance indicates that individuals other than essential health care staff and visits for end-of-life situations, should no longer enter nursing homes until further notice.

[**COVID-19 Update #50**](https://www.ahcancal.org/facility_operations/disaster_planning/Documents/Update%2050.pdf) **| Additional $20 Billion to be Distributed to Medicare Providers**

HHS allocated another $20 billion to all Medicare providers. You may have received a check already and if not, you should over the next week. HHS intends to send checks to Medicaid-only providers but is not doing so in this payment. The notice from HHS is confusing, but here is the explanation. Combined with the $30 billion two weeks ago, with this $20 billion payment, HHS has now paid $50 billion to Medicare providers.

[**COVID-19 Update #49**](https://www.ahcancal.org/facility_operations/disaster_planning/Documents/Update%2049.pdf) **| Congress Approves Additional $75 Billion for Provider Relief Fund**

The House approved and the President is expected to quickly sign the Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act, a bill that was passed by the Senate this week. The bill provides: $75 billion for health care providers to support the need for COVID-19 related expenses and lost revenue. This funding is in addition to the initial $100 billion provided in the Provider Relief Fund as part of the CARES Act. $25 billion for COVID-19 testing $321 billion increase in the Small Business Administration’s Payment Protection Program (PPP) loan to allow for more small businesses to apply to receive aid. All of the provisions above are in addition to the provisions that are in the CARES Act, that was signed into law by the President last month.

**National Skilled Nursing Care Week May 10-16, 2020**

This year, while it is more important than ever to celebrate NSNCW and recognize the staff and residents in our skilled nursing care centers across the nation, it is a challenge to figure out how best to do so. Current social distancing rules and the inability of friends and family to enter the buildings has changed much of the day to day life of the staff and the residents, and no one knows how long this is going to continue. One thing is certain, though, and that is that staff are playing a critical role in caring for residents and saving lives, and that deserves to be honored and celebrated. We hope you will find ways to recognize your staff during NSNCW.

NSNCW is also a time to recognize your residents, their special relationships with staff, and the family members that all make up your unique and wonderful communities. Keeping your community connected through the use of technology and social media is a great way to prevent social isolation and lift everyone’s spirits.

Join Care Providers Oklahoma to brighten up long term care and assisted living residents day and send them a message of support via our Facebook page with hashtag **#CareNotCOVID** Please share your ideas and tell us what you’re doing by connecting on Facebook and Twitter using **#CareNotCOVID**

**Care Providers Oklahoma COVID -19 Resource Page**

Care Providers Oklahoma is providing regular [COVID-19 updates](https://www.careoklahoma.com/covid-19-resource-page/) via our website including all the AHCA/NCAL COVID-19 Updates and daily Member Updates.

Please visit the [**COVID -19 Resource Page**](https://www.careoklahoma.com/covid-19-resource-page/) to find NEW vendors with available PPE supplies

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