

GAPNA *eAlert*

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Update - CMS Initiative to Improve Behavioral Health and Reduce the Use of Antipsychotics Medications for Nursing Home Residents

The Technical Expert Panel Meeting was held in Baltimore, MD on 4/10/12-4/11/12 and GAPNA was represented. The purpose of this meeting was to bring together subject matter experts to have task-oriented discussions around the following four topic areas:

1. Non-pharmacological interventions in dementia
2. Focus on the Survey Process
3. Medication Management (including F329)
4. Quality Assessment and Performance Improvement (QAPI) Principles

The four workgroups developed detailed outlines and ideas for 2 training sessions for surveyors, and also discussed ideas for future trainings for providers, consumers and others.

At the present time, GAPNA can support this initiative by:

1. Encouraging members to [view the CMS webcast](#) on the initiative. State and federal nursing home surveyors will be looking for documented evidence of the use of non-pharmacological interventions to treat nursing home residents with dementia and behavioral symptoms, in addition to efforts made to reduce the use of antipsychotics in this population.

2. Encourage those working in nursing home settings to review F Tag 329 as this is how the surveyors will be evaluating the use of antipsychotics in nursing home settings.

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Stay tuned for more.

CMS Releases Final Rule on Hospital Conditions of Participation

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has released its Final Rule on Reform of Hospital and Critical Access Hospital Conditions of Participation.

Reformed provisions of the rule include expansion of the term "medical staff" to include practitioners such as APRNs and PAs, options for hospitals to implement programs for patient self-administration of some medications, and support for the use of team-based and collaborative care for patients. It also references the IOM report and touches on the report's themes. CCNA's summary of its major provisions can be found here: <http://championnursing.org/CMS-CoPs-5-10-12>. CCNA continues to review the rule and will provide an updated analysis as necessary.

The Final Rule can be found here:

http://www.ofr.gov/OFRUpload/OFRData/2012-11548_PI.pdf
(Acrobat)

ONLY 2 WEEKS LEFT... GAPNA Awards Nominations - (Due June 1st) -

If you or someone you know excels in any of the six areas listed below in which we bestow an Award for, please let us know. Simply complete the short nomination form and send it to our National Office for admission prior to **June 1st**. All Awards will be presented during our Awards Dinner at our 31st Annual Conference "Promoting Clinical Excellence Through Vision, Vitality, and Visibility" taking place September 19-22, 2012 at the Red Rock Casino Resort in Las Vegas, NV.

[Chapter Excellence](#)

[Excellence in Education](#)

[Excellence in Clinical Practice](#)

[Excellence in Leadership](#)

[Excellence in Community Service](#)

[Excellence in Research](#)

Please click on any of the Awards above to download the nomination form for said Award. **All nominations are due by June 1st**. For a more detailed description of each award, please [click here](#).

It Pays to Advocate!

To all GAPNA members, especially those of you who practice in nursing homes, the Pennsylvania Coalition of Nurse Practitioners (PCNP) has been advocating for the passage of a bill to allow NPs to sign death certificates. They are happy to announce that the bill has just passed in the State Senate.

This serves as a reminder that political action groups and advocating are essential for maintaining and improving your role in the health care field.

GAPNA's Research Committee Offers Consults at September Conference

At the 31st Annual Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada, September 19-22, 2012, the GAPNA Research Committee members will provide one-on-one guidance to researchers. To secure your consult, please provide our National Office (GAPNA@ajj.com) with your name, email, contact information and a brief description of the research/project issue that you would like to discuss. Someone that has experience in your research area will set up a time to discuss your research project with you. You will be contacted and a time set up to come meet with a committee member during open Exhibit Hall or lunch on your own time.

Sonoran (Arizona) Chapter Looking for Leaders to Take Active Role on Board

Jean Stanley, Sonoran Chapter President, is looking for leaders in the Arizona area to volunteer for open and soon-to-be-open Chapter Board positions. Volunteer time is minimal; communication is done mostly via email with quarterly Board calls and a once yearly in-person Chapter meeting. Depending on the role you volunteer for, your duties would vary. However, all Board members have a responsibility to energize local members to become more actively engaged in education, practice, networking, and legislative advocacy and support the mission of GAPNA at a local level. If you would like to know more about volunteer opportunities in the Arizona area, please contact Jean Stanley at jstanley5513@gmail.com or the GAPNA National Office for more information.

You are subscribed to GAPNA's eAlert, a publication for GAPNA members and colleagues. From time-to-time, you will receive an e-mail such as this one with important news and information relevant to gerontological nursing. If you wish to update your email address, please do so by [editing your profile](#) on the GAPNA Web site. To unsubscribe, e-mail gapna@ajj.com

The Gerontological Advanced Practice Nurses Association (GAPNA) is the organization of choice for advanced practice nurses who want to pursue continuing education in gerontological care and who seek peer support from experienced clinicians.

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