



AL Coursework and Other Resources

New Assisted Living Administrator Courses Approved by NAB and ACHCA

The National Association of Boards (NAB) and American College of Health Care Administrators (ACHCA) have approved 2 certification programs in assisted living (AL) administration. The programs, authored by Vigilant (www.vigilan.com) and hosted by Provider Management (www.providerman.com), are available online at www.CEUsite.com.

The first of the 2 programs meets the requirements of many states for AL education and is approved by NAB's National Continuing Education Review Service (NCERS). Developed as an introduction to AL administration, it will serve as a resource for preparation for the NAB National Assisted Living Administrator (RCAL) exam and as a study resource for state requirements.

The second program is an advanced curriculum designed to enhance the administrator's knowledge base in client/residential service management, human resources, leadership/governance, physical environment, and financial management. The program is approved by NAB (NCERS), and is recommended by ACHCA Assisted Living Certification exam. This ACHCA initiative is supported by a grant from the Ross Product Division, Abbott Laboratories.

Lisa B. Poskanzer, chair, ACHCA Assisted Living Task Force, believes that the curriculum raises the bar for every state to deliver the highest quality care. "The curriculum is comprehensive, well written, and well organized in a user-friendly format for AL audiences. Its online availability will appeal to a broader audience creating an equal opportunity for all administrators."

Colleges and universities have the opportunity to offer these courses as an extension to their distance learning programs. Saint Joseph's College of Maine is the first college to offer college credit through this program, which will meet the school's standards toward a Bachelor's degree with a Long-term Care Administration major and a Long-term Care Administration certificate (consisting of 6 three-credit programs). "This new program provides a critical level of learning not previously available to our students," says John R. Pratt, director of Long-term Care Management Institute, and program director of Health Administration Programs at Saint Joseph's College of Maine. "The curriculum will both advance the careers of assisted living professionals and provide a strong foundation to increase the standard of professionalism in senior care."

Almost 30% of 2006 Long-term Care Insurance Claims Paid for Assisted Living Costs

Long-term care insurance benefit payments in calendar year 2006 totaled \$3.3 billion, according to an American Association for Long-Term Care Insurance (AALTCI) study. "This is the highest amount of benefit payments to Americans for a 1-year period," announced Jesse Slome, AALTCI executive director. Approximately 8 million Americans now own long-term care (LTC) insurance.

According to the AALTCI study, 33.91% of the 2006 benefit payments were allocated for home care. "One of the most significant benefits of owning LTC coverage is the fact that it can pay for care received in your own home, which is what people clearly prefer," Slome explains. Almost 30% (29.63%) of benefits paid went toward AL costs, and the balance, 36.46%, was allocated for nursing home care.

"The largest claims paid by leading insurers ranged from well over \$350,000 to one approaching \$900,000," says Slome. "Some of these individuals are still receiving LTC so the total value of the protection they've received will continue to grow." For additional information visit: www.aaltci.org.

Alzheimer's from the Inside Out

Psychologist Richard Taylor was 58 when he was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease. *Alzheimer's from the Inside Out* (Health Professions Press, 2005) is his first-hand account of life with the disease. He sheds light on the complex and emotional issues faced by everyone with the disease, such as loss of independence, changing relationships with loved ones, and never-ending uncertainty about the future. Family members and healthcare professionals will gain valuable knowledge from his struggles and triumphs, allowing them to improve relationships with and provide better care for people with the disease. For information visit: www.healthpropress.com. ALC