

# IN THE NEWS

News for LTC Professionals  
in 100 Words-or-Less

Edited by Drew Vogel

[drewvogel5255@msn.com](mailto:drewvogel5255@msn.com)

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## They said it

***“Like many nonprofit senior living organizations across the country, we are facing the same challenges related to new federal and state regulations that are becoming too complex as it relates to Medicaid and staffing ratios”***

Carol McKinley, CEO of Simpson Senior Services announcing the sale of Simpson House – a Philadelphia not-for profit since the Civil War

***“..... the new ACIP recommendations will have a negative impact on the health of infants and children in the U.S. and result in greater healthcare costs”*** Grace Lee, MD, of Stanford University and former chair of ACIP

***“The issue is health security needs universally and the US, by withdrawing, makes itself unsafe and makes the rest of the world unsafe. So, it's lose-lose”*** WHO director-general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus on the U.S. owing money to the organization

## **New Nebraska Law Clamps Down on Agencies**

The Act covers agencies providing workers who perform “direct services”—nursing services or other person-to-person patient care—to healthcare facilities.

Agencies must provide proof of workers' compensation insurance, or other types of protection for injured workers.

Staffing agencies are prohibited from including non-compete clauses in any contract with workers or healthcare facilities. Agencies also cannot require payment of liquidated damages, employment fees, or other compensation if a worker is subsequently hired as a permanent employee by the healthcare facility.

The new law will take affect July 1, 2027.

Husch Blackwell, 04/20/2026

## **States Ordered to Crack Down on M'caid Fraud**

CMS administrator Mehmet Oz is ordering all states to step up their efforts to crack down on Medicaid fraud.

His announcement expanded on the Trump administration's related enforcement actions, such as withholding Medicaid funds from Minnesota and threatening to do that for New York, California and Maine.

CMS is asking states to immediately “revalidate” providers they claim are “high risk.” That is, states are supposed to require providers to prove that they remain eligible to participate in Medicaid and bill the program.

Those providers primarily offer at-home care, transportation, behavioral health and other services.

MedPage Today, 04/29/2026

## **Lawsuit Targets ‘Profoundly Detrimental’ PBJ Audits**

A New Jersey nursing home that expects to lose \$450,000 in annual Medicaid revenue over its staffing data is suing CMS to stop off-site audits from triggering quality rating changes.

Our Lady's Center in Pleasantville argues third-party audits of PBJ reporting may be legal, but docking star ratings over missed or inaccurate reports exceeds CMS authority under federal law — especially given a lack of appeal rights.

The PBJ case filed Tuesday in US District Court follows on the heels of a similar provider case challenging the agency's use of schizophrenia audits to “weaponize” consumer-facing nursing ratings.

McKnight's, 04/23/2026

## **Most Nursing Homes Lack Adequate Emergency Power**

As the US approaches the 2026 hurricane season, the HHS-OIG is drawing new attention to inadequate back-up power supplies at nursing homes following several high-profile and sometimes-fatal failures in recent years.

OIG said 73% of nursing homes have “inadequate or unreliable emergency power systems.”

Those findings are based on an audit of 100 nursing homes, in which 72 had a combined total of 119 deficiencies.

Across the US, the OIG estimated that 53% of nursing homes had inadequate generator maintenance, 39% had generators with inadequate circuit coverage, and 10% had generators at least 40 years old.

HHS-OIG, 4/29/226

## **Psych Meds Likely Begin in Hospitals or SNFs**

Researchers identified 4955 new medication initiations, representing 23.4 million first prescriptions among Medicare beneficiaries during 2009 to 2021.

Compared with the overall proportion of patient visits by clinical setting, patients of all cognitive states were disproportionately more likely to be in an acute or postacute setting (hospitals or nursing homes) before medication initiation.

For patients with dementia initiating an antipsychotic, 22.0% of overall visits were to acute or postacute (vs office) settings, but 43.3% received an antipsychotic for the first time. And 67.1% of patients with dementia were still taking the drug one year later.

JAMA Network Open, 04/28/2026

## **Another State Pulls Back On Managed Care**

Nebraska has responded to provider concerns to protect beneficiaries with the most clinically complex conditions.

Lawmakers voted to return care management for patients with special needs — defined in regulation as patients with brain and spinal cord injuries or a few other conditions — to the state's Medicaid Fee-for-Service program when they require care at a designated special needs facility.

Gov. Jim Pillen (R) signed the bill into law on April 17, earning applause from providers who have seen their patients struggle to access critical long-term care services.

McKnight's, 04/23/2026

## **IN THE TRENCHES**

### **Vaccines, COVID-19, Flu, Measles & Other Worldwide Outbreaks**

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**THE WORLD:** Only some post-acute conditions often attributed to long COVID truly occur more often after SARS-CoV-2 infection than after other viral respiratory diseases. Increased post-COVID risk was noted for pulmonary embolism, abnormal breathing, fatigue, hemorrhagic stroke, memory loss/brain fog and palpitations (*CIDRAP*).

**NEW YORK:** An Upstate club will pay \$1.5 million to settle allegations that it obtained federal pandemic relief funds despite being ineligible for the program. The settlement resolves claims that The Buffalo Club, a private membership club, falsely certified its eligibility for the loan and improperly received a Paycheck Protection Program loan from the SBA during the COVID-19 pandemic (*Syracuse.com*).

**AMERICA:** Children and adolescents with long COVID are significantly more likely to experience worsening grades, difficulty concentrating, and having limited fun with friends. according to a new study published in *Academic Pediatrics*. The findings suggest that the impacts of long COVID in kids and adolescents extend beyond physical symptoms and may disrupt key aspects of learning and social development (*Academic Pediatrics*).

**AFRICA:** Funding is emerging as the "biggest threat" to Africa's immunization efforts as the U.S. and other Western donors tighten aid to poorer countries. The U.S.-Iran war, which has disrupted supply chains and increased gas prices, is concerning for a continent where "many of our facilities depend on generators," said Adelheid Onyango, PhD, the WHO Africa director for health systems and services. She said the agency is yet to quantify the war's impact (*MedPage Today*).

**BALTIMORE:** As of July 1, a new law will allow the state of Maryland to determine what vaccines can be administered to individuals at least seven years of age, while also reducing certain

out-of-pocket costs for families. Gov. Wes Moore on Tuesday signed the "Vax Act," officially decoupling the state's vaccine policy from shifting federal guidelines (*The Baltimore Sun*).

**AMERICA:** None of four US children diagnosed as having tetanus in 2024 had completed a recommended primary tetanus toxoid-containing vaccine series, and none received TTCV or preventive tetanus immunoglobulin between their exposure and symptom onset (*CIDRAP*).

**CALIFORNIA:** The San Francisco infant who was diagnosed with measles last week highlights an especially at-risk group: babies who are too young to get the measles vaccine, and who travel to areas where measles is circulating. The case is the first measles case in San Francisco since 2019 and comes as California and the nation are seeing a troubling resurgence of the highly infectious disease (*San Francisco Chronicle*).

**NEW JERSEY:** The first measles case of the year has been detected in New Jersey in a resident who had recently traveled abroad. People who were Terminal B at Newark Liberty International Airport between 5:30 a.m. and 9 a.m. April 14 or the pediatric emergency department at Hackensack University Medical Center between 11:15 p.m. April 17 and 3:15 a.m. April 18 may have been infected (*Medical Advisor*).

**SOUTH CAROLINA:** Health officials say the measles outbreak in South Carolina — the largest the U.S. has had in decades — has ended. There were nearly 1,000 confirmed cases over about six months, including at least 21 hospitalizations. No new cases associated with the outbreak have been reported in more than 42 days - the time it would take to get sick after being exposed to the virus — without any transmission (*CNN*).

**AMERICA:** Skipping the universal birth dose of the hepatitis B vaccine would cause preventable acute and chronic hepatitis B virus (HBV) infections, liver cancers, deaths, and add millions of dollars in additional healthcare costs. The two studies' cautionary predictions come in the wake of Health Sec. Kennedy's overhaul of ACIP - the CDC's Advisory

Committee on Immunization Practices (*JAMA Pediatrics*).

**WASHINGTON, D.C:** The Department of Justice charged David Morens, MD -- a top aide to Dr. Anthony Fauci during the pandemic -- with multiple federal crimes, accusing the former career scientist of using his private email to evade Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests related to discussions on bat coronavirus research grants (*MedPage Today*).

**BOSTON:** The Trump administration said it plans to appeal a federal judge's ruling blocking key elements of Health Sec. Kennedy 's push to reshape U.S. vaccine policy, including reducing the number of routinely recommended childhood vaccinations. The ruling March 16 also found that a vaccine advisory panel whose members were handpicked by Kennedy was unlawfully constituted (*MSN*).

**ATLANTA:** With a busy travel season approaching, the CDC is warning that additional measles cases in the U.S. can be expected over the next few months. The agency sent the alert to state and local health departments, reminding them to report measles cases to the CDC within 24 hours and to have measles cases reported in hospitals and to public health authorities. The CDC has encouraged public health departments to conduct contact tracing for exposed individuals as well as perform outreach to under-vaccinated communities (*ABC News*).

**SAN FRANCISCO:** The Ghirardelli Chocolate Company of San Leandro, California is voluntarily recalling certain powdered beverage mixes because they have the potential to be contaminated with Salmonella. This action follows a California Dairies, Inc. milk powder recall due to a concern of potential *Salmonella* contamination (*Ghirardelli news release*).

#### **COVID-19, 04/30/2026**

**World Total Cases**  
779,21,796

**World Total Deaths**  
7,114,356

**U.S. Total Deaths**  
1,237,488

World Health Organization

## **Resident Flu Shots Lag the General Community**

With 13,000 nursing homes reporting data for 2024-2025, 61.3% of residents were vaccinated, but general community vaccinations for those 75 years and older came were 75.6%.

The 2024-25 flu season was the first one in which nursing homes were required to report vaccination rates for residents through the CDC's National Healthcare Safety Network.

The CDC also reported 71.7% of residents at government-owned nursing homes received the flu shots, while residents in for-profit facilities were the lowest at 58.5%.

The lowest of all was employees of nursing homes – just 42.1%

*Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, 04/23/2026*

## **Nation's 1<sup>st</sup> Assn-run Nursing School Doing Very Well**

The country's first nurse training school run by a state provider association has posted eye-popping numbers. The first class of higher-level nurses to enter the Arkansas Health Care Association's School of Nursing boasted a nearly 92% graduation rate.

AHCA worked with member facilities around the state to promote its nursing program at three locations: Jonesboro and Rogers, which graduated 21 students each, and Little Rock, which graduated 24 students, all in recent weeks.

The graduates were all certified nursing assistants when they enrolled. They have now received the medication assistant-certified (MA-C) certification and completed the licensed practical nurse program.

*Senior Living, 04/22/2026*

## **U.S. Owes WHO Money Can't Pull Out Until It's Paid**

The WHO's director-general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said he hoped the United States would come up with the money they owe -- a self-imposed condition for quitting the organization.

President Trump, on his first day back in office in January 2025, handed the WHO his country's one-year withdrawal notice.

The WHO constitution does not include a withdrawal clause.

But the United States reserved the right to withdraw when it joined the WHO in 1948 -- on condition of giving one year's notice and meeting its financial obligations in full for that fiscal year.

*Agence France-Presse, 04/29/2026*

## **Paid Apprenticeships for Administrators in Ohio**

Alarmed by the number of licensed nursing home administrators leaving the sector post-COVID, the Ohio Health Care Association set about creating its own program to train new candidates.

About 130 administrators are certified annually through the Registered Apprenticeship Program run by the association's educational foundation.

Each is offered placement at partner organizations and paid during their training. More than 386,000 new apprentices have registered across industries since the beginning of the second Trump administration.

Last year, that included about 37,000 healthcare workers, and long-term care nurse manager and licensed practical nurse were among the most common roles.

*McKnight's, 04/28/2026*

## **Historic Philly SNF Sold To Large PE Firm**

One of the oldest nursing homes in Philadelphia – dating back to the Civil War – is being sold.

Simpson House opened in 1865 as the Methodist Episcopal Home for the Aged. More than 160 years later, it is being sold to Olde Main an affiliate of Tryko Partners, a New Jersey PE investment firm.

Simpson House is licensed for 142 beds and holds a 5-star rating.

Terms of the sale were not announced.

*McKnight's, 04/24/2026*

## **ONE COLUMN**

### **Big Companies Vying for Slice Of \$50B Rural Health Pie**

When Congress approved the One Big Beautiful Bill Act last summer, it cut nearly \$1 trillion from Medicaid over the next decade. Now, rural providers hope the \$50 billion Rural Health Transformation Program, which was part of the same bill, will help keep residents covered.

Yet, small community providers, may find they are sharing the billions with an army of corporate giants.

Months after federal leaders announced that all 50 states won first-year awards, ranging from \$147 million for New Jersey to \$281 million for Texas, state plans reveal that a heavy dose of prescribed spending will go to companies that can increase the use of electronic health records, strengthen cybersecurity, and improve state and health system technology platforms.

And at least four large-scale coalitions of companies are now pitching multipronged services to the states. Many of the companies already work with regional health systems and states through Medicaid contracting or mobile and telehealth operations.

Upgrading technology in rural areas is a major push.

Science Applications International, a Fortune 500 government contractor, pulled together the Alliance for Advancing Rural Healthcare, which includes Walgreens and Mission Mobile Medical, which turns RVs into primary care clinics as well as a data analytics company, a telemedicine and software company, and a company that helps place medical graduates in health systems.

Federal regulators, when creating the rural program's spending rules, also said no more than 5% of a state's total funding awarded could be used to replace electronic medical records systems that already meet federal standards.

That means states will focus on enhancements and upgrades to their current systems.

*KFF Health News, 04/28/2026*

## **“Monitoring Devices” May be Headed for Arizona SNFs**

Nursing home and assisted living facility residents, or their designated representatives, could place electronic monitoring devices in their rooms under legislation approved by the Arizona House of Representatives.

The vote came one day after an employee at a Mesa senior living facility was arrested and charged with allegedly sexually assaulting a resident with dementia.

The case shows why the bill matters, per AARP state director Dana Kennedy, who said it "gives families an additional option to help protect residents who may not be able to speak for themselves."

*Axios, 04/24/2026*

## **Trump Pulls Means Picks Saphier as Top Doc**

President Donald Trump said Thursday he's nominating radiologist and former Fox News Channel contributor Dr. Nicole Saphier for surgeon general after Dr. Casey Means' path forward stalled in the Senate over questions about her experience and her stance on vaccines.

Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. complimented the nomination, calling Saphier "a long-time warrior for the MAHA movement."

Means' withdrawal came after her tense exchanges with lawmakers of both parties threw into question whether she could secure enough votes to advance out of the Senate health committee.

*AP, 05/01/2026*

## **Hundreds of Docs May Have to Leave U.S.**

Hundreds of foreign doctors about to complete training in the U.S. will have to leave the country if the federal government doesn't rapidly process their visa waiver applications, which have been languishing since the fall and winter. Immigration attorneys say.

The waiver program, run by the Department of Health and Human Services, allows physicians who aren't U.S. citizens to stay in the country while

transitioning from the visa they used during their training to temporary worker status. In exchange, the doctors agree to work in underserved areas for at least three years.

HHS didn't explain what's causing the delays.

*KFF Health News, 05/01/2026*

## **AI is Wonderful, but Providers Must be Careful**

As AI matures and connects various data solutions across siloes, protecting data infrastructure and ensuring that results are used appropriately will become ever more important.

Providers are increasingly looking to artificial intelligence tools to bridge staff shortages in key administrative areas, but taking shortcuts during implementation will increase long-term risks, legal experts are warning.

Even the best products and those designed specifically for use in skilled nursing facilities can go rogue if providers launch them without understanding of a given model, oversight of results, or the ability to audit insights or actions.

*McKnight's, 04/28/2026*

## **Health Dept. Buys Former Nursing Home**

The Erie County, Ohio Health Department has completed its purchase of the former Genacross Lutheran Services nursing home which closed in 2017.

Since 2020, the health department had leased it, but not as a nursing home.

The health department began leasing the former nursing home in March 2020, early in the COVID-19 pandemic, to provide additional beds if the number of patients overwhelmed the capacity of Firelands Regional Medical Center.

In 2023, the health department started offering food, activities and care for several hours a day to seniors with memory issues - to give home caregivers a break.

*Sandusky Register, 04/27/2026*

## **Briefly in the News**

Patients who experienced a severe stroke experienced a five times higher risk of developing dementia compared with people who did not suffer a stroke. Researchers analyzed data on stroke severity among 42,342 adults 45 years and older. Patients who experienced mild to moderate and moderate to severe stroke severity had threefold and fivefold increased risks of dementia, respectively, compared to those with no stroke (***JAMA Network Open***).

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported that 34 people in 13 states have been sickened in an outbreak of *Salmonella* Saintpaul tied to backyard poultry. So far no deaths have been associated with this outbreak, but 13 people have been hospitalized. Michigan has the most cases, with six, followed by Wisconsin and Ohio, each of which have five cases (***MedPage Today***).

Researchers from Tulane University and the Southeast Louisiana Veterans Health Care System used hospital EHRs to retrospectively assess whether syphilis infection is independently tied to an increased risk of adverse cardiovascular outcomes in adults served by a New Orleans health care system. They found that US adults diagnosed as having late-stage syphilis are at higher risk for major cardiovascular conditions such as stroke and heart attack, as well as death, than those without the infection (***JAMA Network Open***).

National Health Investors have an agreement to sell a portfolio of 35 properties, including 32 skilled nursing facilities and 3 independent living facilities, to its current operator, National HealthCare Corporation for \$560 million. The transaction is expected to close on July 1, subject to customary closing conditions. NHI estimates transaction costs of \$6 to \$8 million (***Skilled Nursing News***).

CareTrust REIT announced it had closed \$628 million in new investments, with more than half of that going to acquire a group of 15 nursing homes. That unnamed operator and its affiliates will lease the facilities back, managing 1,700 beds across California under a long-term triple-net lease with annual rent escalators (***CareTrust news release***).