

# IN THE NEWS

News for LTC Professionals  
in 100 Words-or-Less

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## They said it

*"As the primary supervisor of nursing care delivery, the DON plays a central yet often underrecognized role in shaping residents' day-to-day experiences"* Professors Jenny Kwon, PhD & John Bowlis in recent study of DON Turnover

*"At this moment, I want to emphasize that the risk to the general public is low"* David Fitter, incident manager for the CDC's hantavirus response

*"You can't charge yourself more than the fair market value of the goods and services that you're providing to the nursing home, which is yourself, if you own the management company and the nursing home"* Accountant Valarie Gray after reviewing an audit of Virginia SNF Colonial Heights Rehabilitation and Nursing Center

## **Audit: Virginia SNF May Have Inflated Costs to Mine M'caid**

Auditors have discovered millions of dollars in unsubstantiated or disallowed expenses that were reported by Colonial Heights Rehabilitation and Nursing Center.

The facility, at the center of an ongoing special grand jury investigation, has had its Medicaid rates reduced by about \$5.3 million.

The auditors removed more than \$600,000 in excessive related-party management fees; \$117,000 in consulting fees; \$448,000 in related-party employee health insurance expenses; and \$544,000 in interest on owner loans auditors treated as an equity investment rather than a loan.

A state Senator is calling for audits of all 36 of the facilities owned by the same company.

WTVR-TV, 05/13/2026

## **DON Turnover May Affect Resident Satisfaction**

A review of 750 nursing homes in Ohio indicates that two or more DON changes in a year are associated with lower overall resident satisfaction, as well as lower satisfaction with a nursing home's environment and caregiving.

Between 2015 and 2017, 68.1% of nursing homes reported DON turnover. About one-third (31.9%) had one DON turnover instance, and 36.2% had two or more leave.

Frequent DON changes, were likely to affect the consistency of nursing oversight and could lead to "disrupted coordination of day-to-day care." A misalignment between residents' functional limitations and an unstable care environment may manifest as reduced satisfaction.

*McKnight's*, 05/13/2026

Jenny Kwon, PhD, UCSF; John Bowlis, PhD, Scripps Gerontology Center at Miami University.

## **So, What About Administrator Turnover?**

### **CMS May Track Admin Turnover Rates, but Not Same**

The study (above) also reviewed administrator changes and found that almost two-thirds of Ohio nursing homes (64.3%) reported turnover in that top post, with 37% reporting two or more administrator changes.

But higher administrator turnover — already closely monitored by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services — didn't drive down resident satisfaction. In fact, it was associated with higher satisfaction with environment, and care and services.

The research reflected data from 2017. The authors said that was necessary because Ohio, one of the few states to measure nursing home resident satisfaction consistently, didn't conduct new surveys during COVID.

*McKnight's*, 05/13/2026

Jenny Kwon, PhD, UCSF; John Bowlis, PhD, Scripps Gerontology Center at Miami University.

## **More Americans with Dementia in AL than in SNFs**

As America's population ages, assisted living communities are playing an

increasingly central role in long-term care, particularly for older adults (85+) living with Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia.

For the first time, a larger share of residents in assisted living than in nursing homes now have Alzheimer's or dementia. In 2022, 44% of those residing in assisted living had Alzheimer's or dementia, compared with 41% in nursing homes.

More than 1 million people live in assisted living settings, and about half are age 85 or older, a group that increased sharply by 28%, from 2020 to 2022.

AARP Public Policy Institute, 05/13/2026

## **CMPs in Colorado Can Go to SNF Staff Training**

A new Colorado law allows for grants from facility CMPs to cover training and education for nursing home staff and removes restrictions prohibiting certain government entities from receiving grant dollars.

"This law will provide scholarships and training opportunities for healthcare workers who take care of our loved ones in nursing homes," Gov. Jared Polis said, "ensuring our families receive the highest quality care while helping fill in-demand jobs.

There was overwhelming Legislative for the new law. House Bill 1244 passed on a 62-2 vote in the House and unanimously in the Senate.

Colorado Politics, 05/06/2026

## **Unlicensed Nursing homes Busted Near Atlanta**

Police charged four people with operating two unlicensed personal care homes where elderly and disabled residents were found living in poor conditions, without proper medical treatment.

Police said they found 14 people living inside the Snellville, Gwinnett County, GA. homes.

Authorities also reported discovering expired food, beverages and medications during the investigation.

One resident suffering from dementia was taken to the hospital.

WAGA-TV, 05/08/2026

## **IN THE TRENCHES**

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

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**AMERICA:** The CDC, noting that the public risk of the hantavirus remains a low, is “encouraging” American passengers of the infected cruise ship to isolate at home. The absence of a formal quarantine order means these individuals can go out in public if they choose. “At this moment, I want to emphasize that the risk to the general public is low. Our top priority is both the passengers who are on the ship and American communities,” David Fitter, incident manager for the CDC’s hantavirus response said in a press briefing (*The Hill*).

**CAPITOL HILL:** Democratic lawmakers are demanding answers about the suppression of a study on COVID-19 vaccine by CDC acting director Jay Bhattacharya, MD, PhD. In a letter sent to HHS Sec. Kennedy, ranking members of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce said Bhattacharya’s decision to prevent the study from being published in *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, the CDC’s flagship publication, “appears to be a deliberate effort to suppress evidence of vaccine effectiveness by your hand-selected ideological ally.” (*CIDRAP*).

**AMERICA:** Using the blood of a 56-year-old woman vaccinated against measles, scientists have isolated a fighting force of four potent virus-blocking antibodies that could pave the way toward a treatment for people exposed to the highly contagious respiratory disease. A safe, highly effective vaccine for measles has been available since the 1960s. But dropping vaccination rates have sparked large outbreaks in multiple states, and the country is edging closer to the virus spreading freely again—which puts more people at risk (*The Washington Post*).

**CALIFORNIA:** Kaiser Permanente confirmed last week that 18 people were infected with Legionella at its Santa Clara medical center, where officials are still trying to determine the source of the contamination. The health system said it

found the infections during routine monitoring. The hospital and its nearby medical office building remain open and are operating normally (*San Francisco Chronicle*).

**GUATEMALA:** A measles outbreak that began in December 2025 reached 5,297, including four deaths. The deaths were in infants younger than 1 year, too young to have completed their vaccine schedule. But signs point to the outbreak waning, with cases plummeting 94% in the past month and new weekly cases dropping from 906 at the peak to 51 last week (*Outbreak News Today*).

**AMERICA:** Large tuberculosis (TB) outbreaks in the United States decreased slightly in recent years and disproportionately affected socially and economically vulnerable populations. People included in large outbreaks were more likely to report substance use homelessness and incarceration. CDC researchers identified 50 large (10 or more cases within a 3-year period) TB outbreaks across 23 states from 2017 through 2023 totaling 1092 cases (*Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*).

**SPAIN:** A COVID-19 outbreak in a residential building in Spain during the early months of the pandemic likely spread through shared bathroom ventilation ducts. The outbreak occurred in June 2020 in a seven-story apartment building during a period when transmission in the city (population 172,000) had dropped to zero. Fifteen COVID cases were identified in four vertically stacked apartments connected by the same bathroom ventilation shaft. No cases were detected in surrounding apartments or elsewhere in the building (*PLOS One*).

**UTAH:** The state has more measles cases in an outbreak that has simmered in the state for more than nine months. There are now 466 cases recorded this year, and 663 in the 2025-26 outbreak. Officials have confirmed 29 cases in the past three weeks. The Southwest health district has recorded the most cases, with 263 – 56% of all infections (*CIDRAP*).

**AMERICA:** In a recently published large population-based study, maternal SARS-CoV-2 infection during pregnancy was not

associated with an increased risk of congenital anomalies in newborns. Some initial studies had raised concerns about maternal COVID infection and birth defects, specifically heart abnormalities, while other research has shown no connection (*JAMA Network Open*).

**WASHINGTON, D.C.:** The chief spokesman for HHS Sec. Kennedy has resigned citing differences with an administration effort to advance flavored electronic cigarettes. Rich Danker, assistant secretary for public affairs, said in his resignation letter that approval of electronic cigarettes “would appeal to children and expose them to nicotine addiction, lung damage and higher risk of cancer” (*The New York Times*).

**THE WORLD:** Drug hunters have searched for years for a treatment for the rare infectious disease hantavirus, which caused an outbreak on a cruise ship that global public-health officials are now racing to contain. The latest outbreak, which has killed three people and sickened several others, adds increased urgency to those efforts. While hantavirus is generally contracted through exposure to infected rodents, the strain in the current outbreak can be transmitted from person to person (*The Wall Street Journal*).

**PARIS:** A French woman infected in the deadly hantavirus outbreak on a cruise ship is critically ill and being treated with an artificial lung. The outbreak has now reached 11 total reported cases, 9 of which have been confirmed. Three people on the cruise died, including a Dutch couple that health officials believe were the first exposed to the virus while visiting South America (*MedPage Today*).

**THE GLOBE:** Maternal SARS-CoV-2 infection during pregnancy was not associated with an increased risk of congenital anomalies in newborns. For the new study, researchers led by a team at the University of Toronto analyzed 5,049 live births involving laboratory-confirmed maternal COVID infection and matched them to 20,196 live births without maternal infection. The team found that congenital anomalies occurred in 3.2% of infants born to COVID-infected mothers, compared with 3.1% of those born to uninfected mothers (*JAMA Network Open*).

## Maybe Pot Instead Of Psychotropic Meds

Researchers worried about the sedation component of antipsychotics creating a vegetative state and increasing fall risks among dementia patients.

Some feel that legal marijuana may help alleviate those issues.

University of Delaware researchers secured a grant from \$260,000 from Delaware INBRE, sponsored by the NIH IDeA Program and the State of Delaware, to conduct a first-of-its-kind pilot study, examining the use of prescription cannabinoids in nursing homes nationwide.

They will use electronic health record data from 2017 to 2023 to study not only cannabinoid use but also its safety and effectiveness.

University of Delaware news release, 05/04/2026

## Makary Out at the Food and Drug Administration

After 13 months marked by turmoil, including mass layoffs and significant churn among top agency officials, FDA Commissioner Marty Makary, MD, amid speculation about whether he'd be fired.

Makary, a former editor-in-chief at *MedPage Today*, also faced a host of pressures from every direction -- pharmaceutical companies, Kennedy, Republicans, and even Trump himself.

*Politico* reported that while the White House did have to sign off on the plan, HHS Secretary Kennedy made the call.

Kyle Diamantas, the agency's deputy commissioner for food, was named as the acting FDA commissioner.

MedPage Today, 05/12/2026

## Oregon Has the Law But Has Never Used It

In 2021 Oregon became the first state in the country to pass a law giving the state broad powers to block healthcare acquisitions - an effort to counteract the consolidation that research shows is cutting competition and driving up costs nationwide.

Five years later, Oregon has not formally blocked a single transaction or issued any fines.

Some people who supported the law have become disillusioned. "I never imagined it would perform as poorly as it has" said Dr. John Santa, a retired physician and former member of the Oregon Health Policy Board.

ProPublica, 05/14/2026

## Indy's Managed M'caid is Fee-for-Service Again

Indiana Gov. Michael Braun signed a bill into law Monday shifting the state's troubled managed Medicaid program back to fee-for-service (FFS) Medicaid.

A recent analysis of the cost increases -- which came without any positive impact on care or payment to providers -- found that Indiana was spending significantly more under the managed care model called PathWays for Health than it would have under a traditional fee-for-service system.

Indiana was paying \$91 million per year more for individuals in nursing homes under PathWays than had the state maintained its control under a fee-for-service structure.

Skilled Nursing News, 05/11/2026

## CMS Blocks New Enrollment in Hospice and Home Health

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services on Wednesday temporarily paused new home health and hospice enrollment into Medicare.

The agency issued a six-month freeze on new provider enrollments as part of its latest effort to crack down on fraud in the healthcare system.

CMS will increase investigations and accelerate the removal of hospice and home health providers suspected of fraudulent activity while the moratoria are ongoing, along with employing new data analytics to scrutinize the sector.

Modern Healthcare, 05/13/2026

## ONE COLUMN

### All About Health? Nah! It's All About Winning Elections

U.S. Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. is aiming for quick wins on new health initiatives to help Republicans in November's midterm elections, after the White House asked him to pivot from a widely criticized campaign to rewrite U.S. vaccine policy.

New efforts announced in the past few weeks were designed to appeal to Trump's voter base, from an executive order bolstering research, into psychedelics, to approving a new gene therapy for children with a rare type of hearing loss, and the administration is looking for more.

Trump is keen to stress prescription drug price cuts negotiated by his appointees, while the health secretary and his team plan a slate of food policy initiatives and are exploring whether they can quickly approve other treatments for childhood disease.

It is not yet clear which of the possible moves under discussion will be chosen by the administration.

The stakes are high for Trump's Republican party, which risks losing control of both chambers of Congress. Kennedy's past moves, such as removing vaccines from the recommended U.S. childhood immunization schedule, are among the policies that could hurt the party's candidates.

As a result, the White House has insisted that he take no more steps against vaccines this year, ahead of the vote.

"The vast majority of Americans view effective vaccines as one of the great miracles of modern medicine. An anti-vaccine message is political poison," Whit Ayres, a Republican pollster said.

At the same time, the White House views Kennedy's celebrity status and appeal to Americans who may not otherwise vote for Republicans as an asset.

The health secretary will join the campaign in competitive congressional districts over the next few months.

Reuters, 05/04/2026

## **Court Approves Omnicare Sale to GenieRx**

A federal Bankruptcy Court has approved the sale of Omnicare to GenieRx Holdings, a joint partnership between private investment firm Milrose Capital and health-care investment and management firm Integro Asset Management d/b/a Integro Healthcare Services.

In a news release CVS Health, Omnicare's former parent company, said that GenieRx, will provide Omnicare the opportunity to strengthen its service—by “staying disciplined in operations, aligning closely with clinical best practices, and working in partnership with the providers and communities that count on Omnicare.”

The transaction is expected to close later this year, subject to regulatory approval and customary closing conditions.

CVS Health news release, 05/13/2026

## **AAPACN Launches Administrator Certification**

The American Association of Post-Acute Care Nursing is expanding its “gold-standard” certifications beyond the clinical realm with the launch of its first nursing home administrator certification.

The on-demand course is intended for licensed administrators with at least two years in post-acute care and offers 10 modules and interactive assessments that participants can complete over a year's time.

In total, the courses provide 31.5 hours in continuing education credits.

An 80% exam score is required for certification.

The Nursing Home Administrator-Certified, or NHA-CT can be found at <https://www.aapacn.org/education/nha-ct>.

McKnight's, 05/13/2026

## **SNF Destroyed by Cal.'s Eaton Fire Sues Electric Co.**

The wildfire burned for 24 days, last year but, driven by hurricane-force winds, it took less than an hour to reach Two Palms Care Center, a family-owned skilled

nursing facility that had been in business in Pasadena and Altadena for more than 55 years.

There was no loss of life, but the building was completely destroyed.

Owners want to rebuild and sued Southern California Edison – one of nearly 1000 law suits against the utility related to the fire.

In its lawsuit Two Palms claims the utility failed to follow safety protocols and that its equipment sparked a blaze.

McKnight's, 05/10/2026

## **Money Won't Follow The Person in Kansas**

The Kansas is eliminating a Medicaid program that helps nursing home residents' transition back into community living.

The state will be withdrawing from the federal “Money Follows the Person” program after being notified by CMS of drastic reductions in and possible elimination of federal support.

The program helps fund home modifications, emergency response equipment and even rent payments for disabled Kansans who want to move back into their homes.

The state was planning on reinstating the program on July 1. It hasn't been active in Kansas for several years.

KSNT-TV, 05/11/2026

## **Doc and Nurses Tried To Skin Uncle Sam**

A federal grand jury has indicted a Utah podiatrist and two nurses who worked for him with fraud after they allegedly submitted fraudulent claims to Medicare for skin substitute services, many of which were medically unnecessary.

The alleged scam resulted in Medicare paying out \$29 million dollars in claims.

Podiatrist Ryan Ellsworth and NP Emily Kelly and RN Drake Broadbent allegedly defrauded Medicare, to fraudulently obtain money for their own financial benefit.

DOJ news release, 5/12, 2026

## **Briefly in the News**

The FDA has approved the drug *Auvelity* for the treatment of agitation in adults with Alzheimer's dementia. The extended-release tablet is the first FDA-approved medication for this condition that is not an anti-psychotic. Anti-psychotics carry serious risks including stroke, sedation and increased death in older adults, according to the FDA. Having a non-antipsychotic option may be safer for patients, experts say (**ABC News**).

Foreign doctors will be able to receive visas allowing them to practice in the U.S. after the government quietly changed a policy to exempt them from a travel ban. A Department of Homeland Security policy stemming from a travel ban that was put in place in January had frozen decisions on visa extensions, work permits and green cards for citizens of 39 countries. Some physicians were subsequently placed on administrative leave by hospitals, (**The New York Times**).

After they self-disclosed to HHS- OIG, five California nursing homes - Country Hills Post Acute, Lakeport Post Acute, Oakwood Gardens Care Center, Primrose Post Acute, and St. Francis Healthcare Center have entered into a \$52,943 settlement agreement with OIG. The settlement agreement resolves allegations that the facilities employed individuals that they knew or should have known were excluded from participation in Federal health care programs (**HHS-OIG**).

PACS Group announced Friday that it has acquired the operations of a post-acute care facility and plans to build a 150-bed skilled nursing facility on adjacent land, with an estimated completion date of 2028. Ridgeway Senior Living in Anchorage is PACS' fourth building in the state of Alaska. This expansion brings PACS' portfolio to 325 communities in 17 states, with nearly 36,000 beds (**Skilled Nursing News**).

The Ensign Group announced the acquisition of the real estate and operations of 15 stand-alone skilled nursing facilities and two continuing care retirement facilities in Texas, adding over 2,000 skilled nursing beds and 100 senior living units to Ensign's portfolio (**Skilled Nursing News**).