

IN THE NEWS

News for LTC Professionals
in 100 Words-or-Less

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They said it

"The overuse of antipsychotic drugs presents a risk to nursing home residents, particularly those with dementia. These drugs are not approved to treat dementia" HHS announcing a national audit of SNFs antipsych med

"We're bracing - it's what you say whenever a hurricane is coming - because that's what it feels like" a SNF operator who asked not to be named regarding the potential deportation of Haitian employees

The "overly narrow definition" of "professional degree" in setting caps on federal student loans, risks further strain on an already constrained workforce" Alliance for Care at Home on the reversal of a federal rule that would have prevented many students from obtaining loans for advanced degrees

Provider Groups Pleased At Reversal of Exclusion Rule

Senior living advocates say they are "heartened" that a federal judge ruled to reverse a portion of a federal rule, that would have gone effect July 1, that would reduce the number of degree programs considered to be "professional," barring students in those programs from higher federal loan limits and some loan forgiveness programs.

A revised rule is now in effect.

The judge's decision came in response to a lawsuit brought by the American Nursing Association and others challenging the DOE's exclusion of advanced nursing degrees, therapists, speech language pathologists and more from the definition of "professional degree" programs.

Senior Living, 06/29/2026

CMS Unveils Plan to Expel Some Medicare Providers

CMS is proposing new rules that would make it easier for regulators to remove skilled nursing providers from the Medicare program and extend the period for which it can claw back payments.

CMS wants to expand the number of reasons for which the agency can take action against problematic providers, including longer clawback periods; revocation of a provider or supplier's Medicare enrollment if the enrollment presents a "high risk of fraud;

Also, denial or revocation of a provider enrollment if they have been convicted of a misdemeanor related to sexual assault or financial misconduct within the past 10 years.

McKnight's, 07/01/2026

Half the States Sue Trump Re: M'caid Work Provisions

Democrats in 25 states and the District of Columbia have sued the Trump administration over its recent guidance on new Medicaid work requirements, arguing the strict rules will prevent eligible Americans from accessing the care they need.

the lawsuit alleges an interim final rule released earlier this month by CMS oversteps the text of the law last summer that set in motion the changes to Medicaid.

They claim the administration's narrow interpretation of parts of the statute, including new limits to a medical frailty exemption, will create harmful coverage barriers and chaos in the states.

AP, 06/29/2026

Analysis of Nursing Home Antipsychotic Use Coming

HHS-OIG is promising a nationwide analysis of antipsychotic use in nursing homes, following a small-scale audit that found medical directors were inappropriately diagnosing residents with schizophrenia to "mask" the misuse of such medications.

The new project is scheduled for completion in fiscal year 2028.

One report published last fall argued that the CMS antipsychotic quality measure is discouraging use of needed medications. Outside of nursing homes, certain antipsychotics are used frequently to help ease distressing neuropsychiatric symptoms that affect 97% of patients with Alzheimer's disease.

McKnight's, 06/30/2026

Resident Dies After Being Trapped in Siderail of His Bed

A Tybee Island, Georgia nursing home was cited for immediate jeopardy after an investigation into the death of a quadriplegic resident who was trapped in his bedrails.

The resident was found with the top part of his body hanging off his bed, and his elbow wedged into a half side rail.

He required emergency resuscitation by EMS and had to be intubated while on the way to the hospital.

The resident later died at the hospital.

WSAV-TV, 06/26/2026

Deadly Neglect Lawsuits For Ohio Nursing Home Chain

In a lawsuit, Sam Frank Ray's lawyers say he was left in the same position through 33 separate eight-hour shifts in September 2024. Rather than take him to the toilet, he was told to go in his brief and wait to be changed.

He died from the resulting pressure infection.

Lawyers suing some of the 16 Arbors homes in Ohio say the operators have pared down staffing to bare minimums, leaving residents exposed to preventable falls, bedsores, infections and elopements.

Since 2024, at least 11 lawsuits have accused Ohio's Arbors facilities of negligence or medical errors that caused patients' deaths.

Lima News, 06/28, 2026



IN THE TRENCHES

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

TEXAS: The cause of death for an Air Force trainee who died last month at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio was influenza. Keon Talik McDaniel, 25, died June 16. Influenza swept the Air Force base in June, one month after Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth made the flu shots voluntary, rather than mandatory, for American troops. Nearly 300 troops have been sickened by influenza. The policy has since been reversed (**CIDRAP**).

AMERICA: A study team surveyed more than 20,000 adult respondents, including public-use files and an oversample of American Indian and Alaska Natives (AIANs). The team determined that from 2021 to 2023, American Indian and Alaska Natives (AIANs) reported higher rates of COVID-19 and long COVID than their non-AIAN counterparts (**Research Square**).

AMERICA: For many people, the ability to work from home is one of the COVID-19 pandemic's most enduring changes. Remote work has increased significantly since the start of the pandemic, rising from roughly 7% of US workers in 2019 to 28% in 2023. But a new study suggests that the shift away from the office may have come with a cost: more time spent alone and poorer mental health (**CIDRAP**).

AMERICA: Better heart health before the pandemic was linked to a lower risk of severe COVID-19 events., *Journal of the American Heart Association*. Adults with the highest heart health scores at the beginning of the pandemic were nearly half as likely to be hospitalized or die from COVID-19 when compared to those with the lowest scores. People with cardiovascular disease are known to be at a greater risk for severe COVID-19 infection (**Journal of the American Heart Association**).

WASHINGTON state: A parasitic tapeworm known as *Echinococcus multilocularis* — often called the

"fox tapeworm" — has been detected for the first time in West Coast wildlife. University of Washington researchers discovered the tapeworm, which can cause a rare but potentially deadly disease in humans, in 37 out of 100 coyotes sampled near Puget Sound in Washington State. The findings were published in PLOS Neglected Tropical Diseases earlier this year. (**PLOS**).

AMERICA: The American doctor who contracted Ebola while working on a humanitarian mission in Congo has returned to the United States and said he's feeling well after recovering from the potentially deadly disease. Dr. Peter Stafford, his wife, Rebekah Stafford, and their four children all arrived safely on Monday, according to Serge, a Pennsylvania-based Christian missions organization. Stafford has been Ebola-free since May 30 (**CBS News**).

MISSOURI: During the most recent respiratory virus season, the risk of hospitalization was higher for influenza than for COVID-19, per a VA study of nearly 13,000 patients. The authors, from the VA Saint Louis Health Care System, noted that while COVID-19 was tied to a substantially greater risk of hospitalization than flu early in the pandemic, data showed an increase in flu cases and hospitalizations in 2025-26 compared with previous seasons. The findings were published last week in The Lancet Infectious Diseases (**Lancet Infectious Diseases**).

AMERICA: COVID-19 vaccines were associated with a lower risk of major adverse cardiovascular events in a cohort study of veterans. The 2024-2025 vaccines also demonstrated effectiveness against COVID-associated emergent care, hospitalization, and critical illness among adults. Among older adults who received a 2025-2026 vaccine, overall COVID vaccine effectiveness against symptomatic disease was 59% (**JAMA Internal Medicine**).

VIRGINIA: With 43 newly confirmed infections, US measles cases reached 2,073 on June 15 as Virginia became the nation's newest hot spot. All but 10 of the US infections this year are locally acquired, with the rest related to travel outside the country. The total for all of last

year was 2,288 confirmed cases (**CIDRAP**).

CALIFORNIA: As thousands of World Cup soccer fans descend upon Santa Clara County in Northern California, the county's public health officials said a resident infected with measles traveled to San Francisco International Airport and two San Jose markets this week while contagious. The adult is believed to have been exposed to measles during international travel. The agency declined to provide any more information about the person due to medical privacy concerns. No other cases have been identified (**The San Francisco Chronicle**).

AMERICA: Calls to poison centers involving diphenhydramine -- the active ingredient in Benadryl and some over-the-counter sleep aids -- and teens in the first five months of 2026 were more than double compared with the same period last year, according to a health advisory from America's Poison Centers obtained first by ABC News. Social media users have documented taking excessive amounts of diphenhydramine in an attempt to overcome the medication's drowsy effects and experience a euphoric feeling (**ABC News**).

THE STATES: The CDC has added 30 new measles infections to the US total, which has now climbed to 2,134 confirmed cases. South Carolina continues to have the most measles cases with 670. Utah confirmed nine new cases and 507 for the year). Texas has reported the third most cases for 2026, with 182. Florida is next, with 141 cases. Virginia has confirmed 129 cases compared to only 5 in all of last year. Pennsylvania now has 83 cases. (**CIDRAP**).

COVID-19, 07/02/2026

World Total Cases
779,220,015

World Total Deaths
7,115,793

U.S. Total Deaths
1,238,466

World Health Organization

Non-Scientists May Control CDC's Scientific Info Soon

Political appointees appear poised to gain more control over information coming out of the CDC under a proposal to add a separate science office atop the agency.

The new office, called the Executive Advisory, Science, and Operations Unit, would review scientific publications, including *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, intended for peer-reviewed journals, or briefings by the director on preparedness activities.

The office would report to the agency's chief of staff, Matthew Buzzelli.

There's been an effort within CDC over the last few months to identify funding for the new office. So far, the proposed office is unfunded.

Stat, 06/25/2026

Residents Referred to Alleged Unlicensed Care Homes

An Osceola County, Florida couple accused of operating multiple unlicensed assisted living facilities remained in jail last week after a judge denied them bond.

Ronald Pack and Marie Carenan are charged in connection with allegedly operating unlicensed facilities in Osceola County.

According to Carenan's arrest affidavit, investigators identified several facilities they say referred patients to the homes, including Park Place Behavioral Health Care, University Behavioral Center and HCA Florida Poinciana Hospital.

WFTV-TV, 06/26/2026

AL Groups Sue Over \$44.9M In Medicaid Cuts

A decision by Washington state lawmakers to make steep cuts to Medicaid AL funding is challenged in a lawsuit filed by state senior living organizations.

Since 2018 the state has been required to update the AL rate every two years.

The rate adjustment scheduled for July 1 is supposed to be based on 2024 statistics, but lawmakers postponed that

increase for another year in the wake of a budget shortfall.

Postponing the rate adjustment, however, also means that matching federal Medicaid dollars anticipated by assisted living providers would be reduced, bringing the total financial impact on providers to \$44.9 million.

Senior Living, 06/22/2026

Nurse Corp RNs May Be Headed to Nursing Homes

If congressional negotiations hold up, Registered Nurses who commit to work in nursing homes could for the first time be included in a national Nurse Corps program that repays their educational loans in exchange for service.

The House Appropriations Committee added \$20 million to the Nurse Corps Scholarship and Loan Repayment program, bringing proposed fiscal 2027 funding to \$112.6 million.

An amended version of the spending bill also requires the Health Resources and Services Administration to spend at least 5% of the Corps' funding to create a long-term care pathway.

McKnight's, 06/10/2026

New Federal Plan to Protect Older Americans

HHS through the Elder Justice Coordinating Council (EJCC), announced a government-wide strategy to protect older Americans' rights, strengthen accountability, and make help easier to find.

The announcement also launches "Never EVER," a national campaign that advances the Action Plan's prevention goals by helping people recognize and avoid government and business imposter scams.

EJCC brings together seventeen federal departments and agencies to advance elder justice nationwide. The Action Plan builds on the EJCC's 2014 Eight Recommendations with measurable steps to prevent harm, disrupt exploitation, hold bad actors accountable, and connect older Americans to help.

HHS news release, 06/09/2026

ONE COLUMN

A Call for CMS to

'Juice Up' Anti-psych Fight

Several major consumer groups have asked CMS Administrator Mehmet Oz to reinvigorate a campaign to reduce drug misuse that previously led to an intense focus on nursing homes' antipsychotic reliance.

Following an in-person meeting early this month, the Center for Medicare Advocacy, Justice in Aging and other state and national groups wrote Oz asking his agency to refocus on reductions and "protect the antipsychotic quality measure."

"From 2013 to 2016, nursing homes were strongly encouraged by CMS to reduce the misuse of antipsychotics in nursing homes," a letter from the group noted.

The authors noted the initial campaign, referred to as the National Partnership to Improve Dementia Care in Nursing Homes, "relied more on encouragement than enforcement." But it did lead to significant de-prescribing improvements: a 2020 study found rates declined from 23.9% in 2011 to 14.3% by the second quarter of 2019.

The rate hovered between 14% and 15% through early this year, when a new methodology including more types of claims increased the national average to 16.69

Providers and drug companies — and members of Congress — have in recent years urged CMS to reconsider its approach to regulating antipsychotics. They argue new drugs are safer and now sometimes intended for patients with dementia, and that nursing homes need more flexibility given that many patients begin taking and depending on antipsychotics years before moving into a nursing home.

But the groups wrote, "In most of these cases, the drugs are not used to treat mental illness but to make residents 'easier to manage.'"

Those groups want surveyors to more frequently cite a presumption of harm when they find unnecessary psychotropic drug use under F-605.

McKnight's, 06/22/2026

Court Ruling in \$35.8M Wage Case Limits FLSA

An appellate court in Pennsylvania has ruled in a senior living and care wage and hour case that federal labor laws do not cover unpaid non-overtime hours.

The ruling finding that claims for so-called gap time — uncompensated time that does not exceed the overtime limit — are not recognized under the Fair Labor Standards Act is a “significant win” for employers.

In 2024 a lower court awarded \$35.8 million in damages, finding that Comprehensive Healthcare Management Services violated FLSA by miscalculating payroll items including compensation for overtime gap time.

Senior Living, 06/08/2026

New Sedative Prescriptions Increase Risk of Falls

Older adults who were prescribed new sedatives, particularly a benzodiazepine or antipsychotic, within seven days of hospital discharge experienced an elevated risk of falls, emergency department (ED) visits, hospital admission and death within 30 days of discharge.

A Canadian study showed that, of 868,484 adults, 246,440 (13.2%) of participants filled at least one sedative prescription within seven days of hospital discharge.

Within 30 days of hospital discharge, 30,626 (1.6%) older adults experienced at least one fall that resulted in medical attention.

Canadian Medical Association Journal, June 2026

44% of AL Residents Live With Some Form of Dementia

Almost half of older adults in assisted living communities live with Alzheimer's or another form of dementia, underscoring the sector's important role in keeping people well as they age.

That's according to a report from AARP, which examined the growing role of assisted living in caring for older adults and the shift away from higher acuity nursing homes.

Forty-four percent of assisted living residents are living with some form of cognitive decline, compared to just 41% of residents in nursing homes with the same diagnoses.

Senior Housing News, 005/14/2026

Genesis Sues Landau, Others For 'Potential \$50M in Losses

Genesis HealthCare launched a new legal volley last week, accusing two insiders of working together to strip the provider of at least \$50 million in key assets.

The new lawsuit accuses investor Joel Landau of using his leverage with Genesis directors to terminate leases for 22 Pennsylvania facilities which were expected to generate \$5.2 million in annual revenue.

Landau had guaranteed lease performance. Bankruptcy could have triggered “significant liability” for him.

Genesis asserts, he and the CFO in 2024 hatched a plan to terminate the Genesis subleases and put the buildings in the control of another Landau-controlled entity.

McKnight's, June 29, 2026

America Needs More Education About STIs

STIs are very common, with roughly 20% of Americans having an STI on any given day in 2018 and 85% infected with HPV at some point in their life.

The proportions of participants who knew that certain diseases are sexually transmitted were high for genital herpes (95%), gonorrhea (94%), syphilis (91%), chlamydia (89%), and HPV (75%, up six percentage points from 2024).

Americans were more aware that HIV can be sexually transmitted (92%) than mpox (35%) or Zika (13%), which is mainly mosquito-borne.

One in 5 incorrectly implicated toilet seats in STI spread.

*Annenberg Public Policy Center
University of Pennsylvania, May 22, 2026*

Briefly in the News

Concern over healthcare consolidation is growing on Capitol Hill, but the private equity firms that some lawmakers blame for intensifying industry concentration have mostly escaped legislative attention. That may be about to change. Leaders of the House Energy and Commerce Committee pledged last week to work on bipartisan draft legislation that would require extensive reporting of private equity investors' healthcare holdings. **(Modern Healthcare).**

The Supreme Court Tuesday affirmed the principle that almost everyone born on U.S. soil is a citizen, a major decision that rejects an Administration push to fundamentally redefine who is American. The justices struck down an executive order by the president that said citizenship would not be granted to children born to parents who are in the country illegally or those on temporary visas for work, travel, school or humanitarian reasons **(The Washington Post).**

Coffee consumption has been linked to a number of health benefits, such as reduced risks of dementia, head and neck cancer, and all-cause and cardiovascular mortality. Now, according to a 13-day follow-up study, from the U.K. Biobank, a higher intake of coffee was associated with lower risks of cirrhosis, hepatocellular carcinoma, and liver-related mortality. These associations persisted for both caffeinated and decaffeinated coffee, and for unsweetened and sweetened coffee **(Clinical Gastroenterology and Hepatology).**

Despite the promise of freeing people with HIV from taking daily pills, uptake of long-acting injectable antiretroviral therapy (LA-ART) among older Americans remains limited. Use of the injectable regimen increased over time, rising from 638 patients (0.4%) in 2021 to 5,162 patients (3.0%) in 2023. But adoption of long-acting antiretrovirals remained low overall, with 97% of beneficiaries still using oral medications in 2023 **(JAMA Network Open).**