



# PADONA /LTCN

Pennsylvania Association of  
Directors of Nursing Administration

DEDICATED TO SERVICE  
COMMITTED TO CARING

AUGUST 2017



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## PADONA ENews

Dear PADONA Members:

Hopefully you are managing to stay cool this summer during the periodic heat waves. Knowing it is challenging to maintain a safe environment for both your employees and residents, I recently emailed you several links to heat related articles that may be advantageous.

I would like to welcome the newest PADONA board member, Marie Goode. She will be the Area I representative. Marie is the Director of Nursing at Pinecrest Manor in Saint Marys. She received an Associate of Nursing degree from Lock Haven University and a Bachelor of Nursing from the University of Pittsburgh and has been working in Long Term Care for 25 years holding the positions of 11-7 Supervisor, Unit Coordinator, ADON and DON since 2008. Being a hospital based nursing facility, Marie was instrumental in the implementation of the current EMR and E-MAR systems and remains very active in information technology. We welcome Marie and look forward to working with her.

There is still time to register for the fall LTC Leadership Development program being held October 10-13, 2017 at the Crown Plaza, 1741 Paper Mill Road, Wyomissing, PA. This is an updated version of the former Certification course. You may attend this course even if you are not eligible or interested in taking the certification exam. I believe you will find it very worthwhile. Both Sophie Campbell and Candace McMullen, the course presenters, are to be recognized for their dedication, special skills, knowledge and effective teaching ability. There is more information available in this e-news and on our website.

Candace McMullen, Education Committee Chair, has another great networking meeting planned for 2:00-4:00 pm on August 29<sup>th</sup> at Homewood at Martinsburg, 437 Givler Drive, Martinsburg, PA 16662. PADONA, LeadingAge PA, PHCA, and PACAH are partnering to host this networking opportunity. Attendees will hear about current national and state regulatory and enforcement trends. The session also will offer attendees an opportunity to discuss recent Department of Health surveys and offer insights about regional experiences.

Enjoy the rest of the summer and remember if I can be of any assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Chair, Board of Directors / Executive Director  
PADONA





## [Connected Care Model Reduces Readmissions from SNFs](#)

*Study looks at impact of frequent follow-up visits, Article from Cleveland Clinic For Medical Professionals*

With about 20 percent of hospitalized Medicare beneficiaries discharged to skilled nursing facilities (SNFs) for post-acute care, readmission rates within 30 days are common and costly. In an effort to deliver quality care, Cleveland Clinic's Center for Connected Care started the Connected Care SNF program in 2012. [Luke Kim, MD](#), and colleagues from Cleveland Clinic's Center for Geriatric Medicine, recently conducted a study to look at the impact of more frequent provider visits.

### Some background

Patients discharged to SNFs generally have more complex illnesses, lower functional status, and higher one-year mortality than patients discharged to the community. Despite this, SNF patients might have infrequent contact with physicians. Federal regulations require only that patients discharged to SNFs be seen within 30 days and then at least once every 30 days thereafter.

According to the 2014 Office of Inspector General report, one-third of Medicare beneficiaries in SNFs experience adverse events from substandard treatment, inadequate resident monitoring and failure or delay of necessary care, most of which are thought to be preventable.

### The intervention

To address this issue, Cleveland Clinic developed a program called "Connected Care SNF," in which hospital-employed physicians and advanced practice professionals visit patients in selected SNFs four to five times per week, for the purpose of reducing preventable readmissions.

The aim of this study was to assess whether the program reduced 30-day readmissions, and to identify which patients benefited most from the program.

During the study period, 13,544 patients were discharged to SNFs within a 25-miles radius of Cleveland Clinic's main campus. Of these, 3,334 were discharged to seven intervention SNFs and 10,201 were discharged to 103 usual care SNFs.

This Connected Care intervention did, in fact, reduce 30-day readmission rates among patients discharged to SNFs. While all subgroups had substantial reductions in readmissions following the implementation of the intervention, patients at the highest risk of readmission benefited the most.



During the intervention phase, adjusted 30-day readmission rates declined at the intervention SNFs (28.1% to 21.7%,  $P < 0.001$ ), while there was a slight increase at control SNFs (27.1 % to 28.5%,  $P < 0.001$ ). The absolute reductions ranged from 4.6 percent for patients at low risk for readmission to 9.1 percent for patients at high risk, and medical patients benefited more than surgical patients.

The study concluded that this program of frequent visits to patients by hospital-employed physicians and advanced practice professionals at the SNFs can reduce 30-day readmission rates. But Dr. Kim notes that further study is necessary to know whether Connected Care can be reproduced and whether it reduces overall costs.

For more details on the study, see the published the article, "[Impact of a Connected Care Model on 30-Day Readmission Rates from Skilled Nursing Facilities,](#)" in the *Journal of Hospital Medicine*.

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## Provider Networking Meeting Come Network with Colleagues

PADONA, LeadingAge PA, PHCA, and PACAH have partnered to host another networking opportunity. Attendees will hear about current national and state regulatory and enforcement trends. The session also will offer attendees an opportunity to discuss recent Department of Health surveys and offer insights about regional experiences.

### **Save the Date:**

*Tuesday, August 29, 2:00 - 4:00 pm*

*Homewood at Martinsburg, 437 Givler Drive, Martinsburg, PA 16662*

Kindly RSVP by sending your **name, position, facility and email address** to Candy Jones via email at [cjones@padona.com](mailto:cjones@padona.com) or by fax at [856-780-5149](tel:856-780-5149).

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## **PADONA's LTC Leadership Development Program**

**October 10-13, 2017**

**Crowne Plaza Reading Hotel, 1741 Paper Mill Road, Wyomissing, PA 19610**

This 4-day program provides an opportunity to learn best practices from experienced nurse leaders and management experts.

This program will build on the practical and critical thinking leadership skills necessary to effectively manage a nursing department. This is a very interactive program that enables attendees to brainstorm ideas, network with colleagues and develop alternative solutions and strategies to enhance resident care and improve fiscal outcomes in your nursing facility.

Additionally, those attending may qualify for the American Society for Long Term Care Nurses (ASLTCN) Director of Nursing Certification Exam online. This is a unique opportunity for you to become certified and utilize the initials "**CNDLTC**." The certification exam application will be available online for completion. Certification candidates must: have an active RN license, be a member of PADONA or the ASLTCN; have at least 12 months experience in Nursing Administration in long term care (six months as a DON or ADON) and have a certificate of completion from the PADONA four-day LTC Leadership Development Program. After review and approval of your qualifications you will be sent an email and a link to log in to take the exam (passing score of at least 80%). If not passed the first time, there will be a \$100 fee for the opportunity to retake the exam.

Nurses in long term care who are seeking certification are, in effect, making a definitive statement that they see their responsibilities as being vital to meeting the prescribed and desired care of the residents who reside in today's long term care facilities. By becoming a **CNDLTC**, your peers and staff will respect you for your advancement, achievement, betterment and development!

This program is for PADONA members only. Your registration fee (\$760) includes up to 22.0 program CE contact hours, conference material, breaks, breakfast and lunch

[Registration Form](#)

[Payment Link](#)

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## **Choosing The Right Wander Management System For Your Community**

From Resident Guard/AccuTech

Many residents in long term care and senior living communities suffer from Alzheimer's, dementia or other conditions that leave them susceptible to elopement.

[Accutech's ResidentGuard](#) Wander Protection System reduces liability, improves quality of care and increases overall security and safety of residents.

Download our whitepaper: "[How to Choose the Right Wander Management System](#)"

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**Only 10 Spots Left for Exhibitors at the April 4 to 6, 2018  
PADONA 30th Annual Convention - Today's Decision/Tomorrow's Vision  
Convention held at Hotel Hershey from April 4 through 6, 2018**

[2018 Exhibitor Space Contract](#)

[2018 Break Exhibitor Space Contract](#)



## Welcome New Members!

- Susan Bajan - Luther Crest - Area III
- Rachel Barto - Susquehanna Health Skilled Nsg & Rehab Ctr - Area II
- Elizabeth Bebe - Penn State Health Rehab Hospital - Area II
- Jessica Bungard - Presbyterian Village of Hollidaysburg - Area II
- Tina Dugan - Southwestern Nursing Care Center - Area I
- Tricia Oswald - Mount Hope of Nazarene - Area II
- Holly Reese - Redstone Highlands - Area I
- Tammy Walls - Presbyterian Senior Living - Windy Hill Village - Area II