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1. Programs are valid for two years only. Vocational programs must renew with IBHE annually and send the approval certificates from IBHE for the two years to IDPH for program renewal. There are *many* programs failing to request program reapproval. Instructions for reapproval are on page 32 of the Program Coordinators Guide.
2. The CMS QSEP training for COVID is no longer required.

Information below is from the Department of Healthcare and Family Services (HFS) and I am placing the information here as a courtesy to them. This is great news for CNAs who will be rewarded financially for remaining in the profession. Any specific questions about this program should be directed to HFS.



A critical piece of the nursing home rate reform legislation that the Illinois General Assembly passed this spring is Medicaid funding to support a new wage scale for CNAs that will increase wages by as much as \$8 per hour, depending on a worker's role and length of service in nursing homes. For a CNA working 2,000 hours, the wage scale could amount to between \$3,000 and \$16,000 per year in added wages, as compared to entry-level wages.

The wage scale is optional for nursing homes, but the Medicaid program will repay nursing homes for its share of the cost. For some nursing homes, Medicaid will fund virtually the entire cost of the scale. The wage scale is structured to ensure that CNAs are rewarded for their experience in the vital role of caring for Illinois seniors, with an increase for each year of their experience in Illinois nursing homes.

For those with at least one year of experience, their wage will increase by at least \$1.50 per hour, and Medicaid will pay its share of that \$1.50 increase. The wage increase goes up by \$1 for each year of experience, so those with three years of experience would see a \$3.50 per hour increase in their wages, topping out at a \$6.50 per hour increase for those with six or more years of experience.

The legislation also allows for a \$1.50 per hour wage increase to accompany qualifying promotions, which is in addition to the experience-based wage increases. Medicaid will fund its share of this increase, too, up to 10-15% of nursing home CNAs.



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The nursing home rate reform legislation is awaiting the Governor's signature and is due to take effect July 1.

As always, do not hesitate to call or email with questions.

Randy Carey-Walden, RN, MSN, CCM
Public Service Administrator
Illinois Department of Public Health
Training and Technical Direction
525 W. Jefferson St. 4th Floor
Springfield, IL 62761
Phone: 217.785.5569
Fax: 217.557.3363
ross.carey-walden@illinois.gov