

THE SCALA CONNECTION

The association's informative quarterly newsletter for the senior living industry.

[Discover SCALA](#)

SCALA@scassistedliving.org

www.scassistedliving.org

Considering Membership?

The SC Assisted Living Association (SCALA) is a not-for-profit 501 (c) (6) membership organization dedicated to providing advocacy, communication, education, and resources for SC's assisted living industry. Share our vision and join us today!

[Learn More](#)



New COVID-19 guidance gives assisted living providers much more flexibility

More info [here](#)



In-person workshops & online trainings

2023 education schedule available in late January.

FALL CONVENTION



Fall Convention & Trade Show

September 26-28, 2022 - The Hyatt Regency Savannah, GA



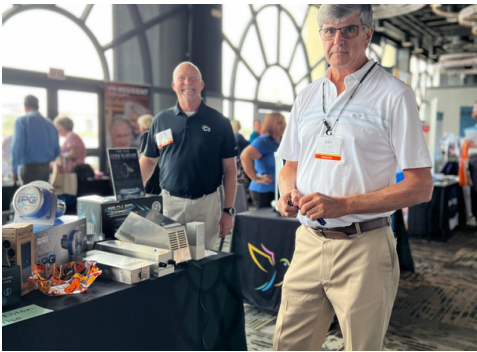
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Fall Convention & Trade Show

September 26-28, 2022 - The Hyatt Regency Savannah, GA



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With the Optum care model + UnitedHealthcare® assisted living plan

The Optum clinical care model is helping assisted living communities maintain their residents' health and extend their length of stay, eight months longer than the national average.¹ Here's a look at how these plans make this possible, and what your community may miss when there isn't a plan in place.



Extend your residents' length of stay

With Optum's assisted living plan, you get the support you need to keep residents at home in your community.

Sources
1. 2019–2020 IESNP results.

Contact Optum at optum.com/alc.



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Riverboat Cruise

Savannah, GA





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Happy Fall, Y'all! Hope everyone had an amazing summer. As we get to the end of yet another crazy year, I hope you have been able to find some overdue, well-deserved time off. For those that were able to join us for the Fall Convention in Savannah, Georgia, thank you for your participation. For those that were not able to make it, you missed out on some great topics and fun but there is always the next one.

As we press into the last quarter of the year and onward to 2023 let's remember to allow ourselves the time to reflect and to plan for the future. Our jobs are hard, harder than they used to be, and likely only to get more complex. Creating a pathway for our own success is a critical component in the evolution of not only ourselves but the industry and the people we care for.

SCALA continues to work hard to create an organization that promotes our industry, to provide education to its members, and to lobby to State officials regarding our needs. Our vision is to promote the ability of all of our members to provide the highest quality, compassionate care through benevolence, respect, integrity, innovation, professionalism, and accountability. If you are not already an active member of SCALA and would be interested in membership (facility or vendor) or if you are a member and want to learn more about how to be actively involved with the Association, please reach out. We look forward to the future and the difference we can all make in the lives of those we serve through our essential work.

LONG TERM CARE PLANNING MONTH – OCTOBER 2022

Long-Term Care Planning Month takes place in October. The month creates awareness among senior citizens and their caretakers to understand and prepare for the outrageous costs of healthcare for adults. Unfortunately, this is not something that people plan for, and many are unaware that most insurance plans do not cover long-term non-medical care and assistance for senior citizens and their daily activities.

[Learn more about how to observe LTC Planning month](#)

EXHIBITORS NOT INCLUDED IN CONFERENCE PROGRAM

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Conferences, Trainings & Education

Join SCALA for educational & networking opportunities to keep current with industry trends & to share best practices with colleagues. SCALA provides quality education & training for health care professionals in the industry. Participate in educational sessions at the spring & fall SCALA conferences, then put the information you learn into practice. Take advantage of regional training seminars & industry forums throughout the year. SCALA members enjoy discounted rates on all SCALA events.

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QUALITY OF LIFE**

*2023 schedule
available in late
January.*



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NEW COVID-19 GUIDANCE GIVES ASSISTED LIVING PROVIDERS MUCH MORE FLEXIBILITY

Senior living experts have welcomed revised COVID-19 infection prevention and control guidance for healthcare settings, saying it provides more flexibility for providers to respond to current local conditions. In [updated guidance](#) released early this month, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention now offers assisted living the option of following either the COVID-19 healthcare settings recommendations or more flexible congregate care setting recommendations. The decision comes down to how a state categorizes assisted living communities.

In general, long-term care settings — including assisted living settings — where staff provide non-skilled personal care should follow community prevention strategies based on COVID-19 community transmission levels, similar to independent living and other non-healthcare congregate settings.

One of the biggest changes is that recommendations for healthcare settings are no longer based on vaccination status. Source control, quarantine/work restrictions and screening are now the same for all individuals, regardless of whether someone is up to date with COVID-19 vaccinations.

The CDC also no longer recommends active screening of staff members and visitors. Instead, healthcare settings can opt for passive screening techniques, including signage describing symptoms and advising individuals — especially workers — how to manage themselves if they experience an exposure or test positive for COVID-19.

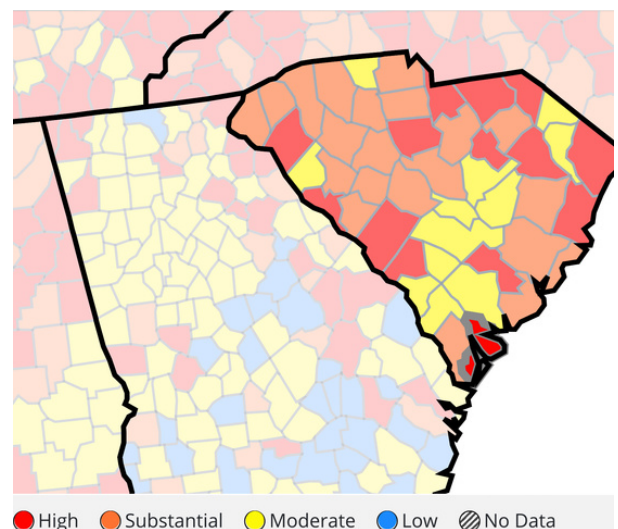
Masking and broader personal protective equipment use continues to be recommended in healthcare settings in areas of high community transmission, or if a worker or resident has been exposed to or tests positive for COVID-19. But universal masking is no longer required in healthcare settings where community transmission is substantial, moderate or low. The only exception is for individuals confirmed or suspected of having COVID-19, or if they are experiencing any other respiratory illness, including a cold or influenza.

Routine screening of asymptomatic healthcare workers based on community transmission rates also is being dropped, although state laws and individual community policies can require routine screening as an “additional precaution.” A series of three tests at specific intervals is recommended for residents and staff following SARS-CoV-2 exposure, regardless of vaccination status.

The American Health Care Association / National Center for Assisted Living noted that the CDC also updated its strategies to mitigate healthcare personnel staffing shortages. Asymptomatic healthcare workers with higher-risk exposures do not have to quarantine, regardless of their vaccination status.

COVID-19 Community Level

[Covid data tracker-](#)
[County view](#)



RESIDENT FALLS COST PROVIDERS \$380,000 PER YEAR, ON AVERAGE: REPORT

From quality of care to labor shortages, fall-prevention strategies can have enormous transformative effects on senior living and care businesses. Falls cost the average community or facility \$380,000 annually in direct costs, according to a newly issued [report](#).

The report resulted from a survey of more than 400 executives and caregivers across assisted living communities and nursing homes, as well as more than 1,000 adults. It assessed the effects of falls at and the counteractive approaches undertaken by providers.

Among the solutions highlighted are payers and capital partners providing funding to providers to experiment with solutions to reduce falls. Providers also need to collect data on falls, provide staff members training and support to focus on falls, and tailor resident care solutions to individual needs and personal histories.

Overall, falls cost the US health system \$50 billion a year. By 2030, there will be 72 million older adults experiencing a combined 52 million falls each year at a cost of \$101 billion annually, according to San Francisco-based Safely You in its inaugural 2022 State of Falls, released this week.

Among the key findings: 85% of surveyed industry executives reported that falls significantly affected staff turnover due to stress. Forty-six percent of respondents also cited labor shortages as a top challenge. Two-thirds (66%) said that labor problems such as shortages led to a decrease in care quality.

The report also revealed how much time clinical staff members spend on fall-related issues: one full work day each week (17% of their time), on average.

Providers with 20 or more assisted living communities experienced an average of 378 resident falls annually, compared with an annual average of 278 falls at skilled nursing facilities. One in five providers said that there are more falls in their communities today than before the pandemic.

Twenty-four percent of falls result in moving a resident to a higher level of care/service, according to respondents, with one in seven move-outs related to falls. The majority of participating assisted living communities reported providing some type of rent or care credit for temporary move-outs. Skilled nursing facilities reported losing an average of \$250 per day when a resident moves out for any length of time, with temporary move-outs averaging 21 days.

Across assisted living communities and skilled nursing facilities, the annual direct cost of all falls was \$380,000 per location. For providers with 20 or more locations, the average cost was \$712,000, and for providers with 19 or fewer facilities, the cost was \$158,000 per location.

OTHER NEWS

Medicare Part A Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) Prospective Payment System (PPS) Pricer Update Fiscal Year (FY) 2023

Learn about updates to payment rates for FY 2023, including the 5% cap.
More Information:

- [Section 30.5 Medicare Claims Processing Manual, Chapter 6 \(PDF\)](#)
- [Instruction to your Medicare Administrative Contractor \(PDF\)](#)

CMS makes new [provider preview reports](#) available

[Biden administration extends COVID public health emergency](#)



NCAL REPORT STATES CONTINUE STRENGTHENING ASSISTED LIVING REGULATIONS

NEARLY TWO-THIRDS OF STATES UPDATED ASSISTED LIVING REQUIREMENTS

Assisted living regulations, statutes, and policies in 33 states were updated between 2020-2022, according to the National Center for Assisted Living's (NCAL) 2022 edition of the "Assisted Living State Regulatory Review" released last month.

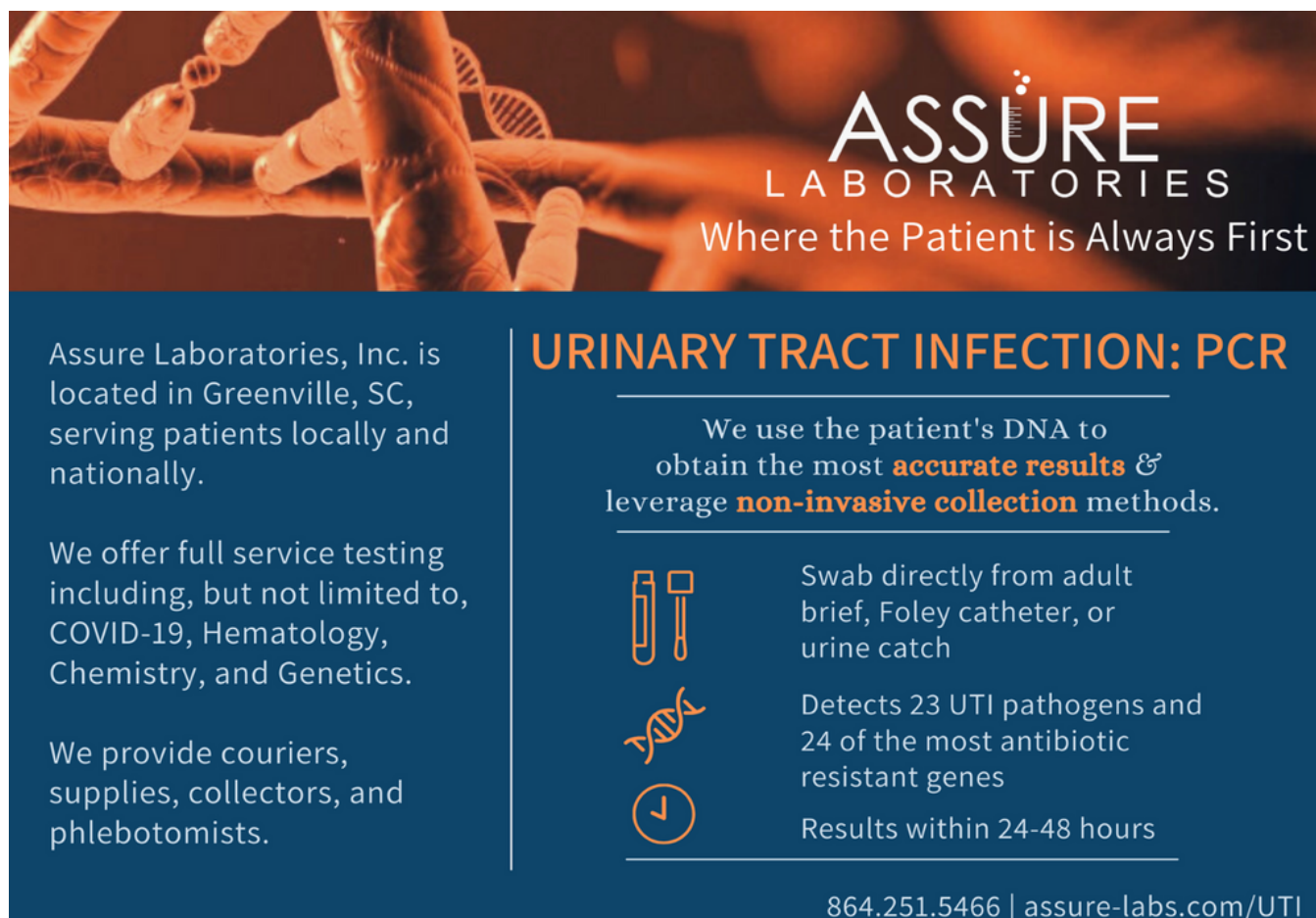
The report also found the following:

- Forty-six states and the District of Columbia (92%) require a consumer disclosure, agreement, and/or bill of rights for residents.
- All 50 states and the District of Columbia require a form of resident assessment and, at minimum, provide activities of daily living for residents.
- Forty-nine states and the District of Columbia (98%) have provisions around, and allow, providing medication management to residents.
- Forty-five states and the District of Columbia (90%) have minimum educational and/or training requirements for assisted living administrators/directors.

The "Assisted Living State Regulatory Review" summarizes key selected state requirements for assisted living licensure or certification. It provides information for every state and the District of Columbia on topics such as which state agency licenses assisted living, recent legislative and regulatory updates affecting assisted living, and requirements for resident agreements, admission and discharge, units serving people with Alzheimer's or other dementias, staffing, and training.

The report also includes requirements for communities that offer seniors and people with disabilities housing, supportive services, person-centered assistance with activities of daily living, and some level of health care but may use a different term than assisted living (such as residential care and personal care homes).

The full report along with summaries for each state are available on the NCAL website [Here](#).



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What is SCALA?

The South Carolina Assisted Living Association (SCALA) represents the largest number of assisted living communities of any trade association in the state. Representing over 150 SC communities, we are a strong voice on all issues affecting Assisted Living.

We are active legislatively, educating legislators about assisted living, impacting proposed legislation, and employing a lobbyist and consultant to monitor legislation related to our industry. We also work on a regular basis with all state agencies impacting assisted living, sharing our knowledge and understanding of the industry and discussing the issues impacting healthcare.

Education is at the core of our mission, whether it be through advocacy at the Statehouse or in government agency offices or with members, keeping them informed and offering them opportunities to reinforce their skills and knowledge and providing them the opportunity to network with others in the industry. We provide these services through our website, email updates, conferences, seminars and webinars. We also provide interaction for businesses and companies providing goods and services to our industry through our trade shows, on-line membership directory, and industry partner memberships. Finally, our website serves as a resource for consumers of assisted living offering links and resources to guidelines including criteria to consider when finding a facility, a checklist for visiting and selecting an assisted living community and other programs and resources available to them.

WHERE DO MY MEMBERSHIP DUES GO?

- ☒ Office operations
- ☒ Lobbyist
- ☒ Full time ED
- ☒ Communications
- ☒ Trainings
- ☒ Website
- ☒ Accounting & legal consultants
- ☒ Publications
- ☒ Mailings

Have a job to post?

Email SCALA any job listings or opportunities you have open with your company or facility. We will include in newsletters or the online job listing.



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