



LONG TERM CARE COMMUNITY COALITION
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Working to improve long term care through research, education & advocacy

LONG TERM CARE (LTC) E- NEWSLETTER – May 2011: Volume 9, Number 4

Welcome to the [LTC E-NEWSLETTER](#), a monthly electronic newsletter of the [Long Term Care Community Coalition](#). Note to Readers: To go directly to an article, click on its page number in the Table of Contents. Once you are at the article, click on any underlined text for a link to more information or to send a message in “Spotlight on Advocacy.”

[Please support LTCCC’s work to protect the frail elderly and disabled who rely on long term care. Click here to donate \\$5 \(or whatever you care to give\).](#)

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National Resource Center on LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender) Aging Announces the launch of new portal on LGBT Caregiving

SAGE, Services & Advocacy for GLBT Elders announced on March 30, 2011 the launch of a new caregiving portal on the National Resource Center on LGBT Aging website. According to the [SAGE press release](#),

The Resource Center's caregiving portal offers tools, tips and multimedia resources that address the challenges unique to LGBT older adults providing care to loved ones.... "Caregiving, and access to caregiver supports, is a major health issue facing the growing numbers of LGBT older adults in this country," said Hilary Meyer, Director of the National Resource Center on LGBT Aging. "Because LGBT older adults often fear discrimination from health care and aging providers, they delay seeking the services they need. This can lead to financially and mentally overextended caregivers, and care recipients who are prematurely institutionalized in nursing homes or long-term care facilities."

Approximately 80 percent of long-term care in the United States is provided by family members. However, many LGBT older adults, who are often estranged from their families of origin, must rely on partners, friends and families of choice. Because these relationships are not recognized under federal and many state laws, LGBT caregivers are often denied the resources, medical decision-making authority, and support extended to their heterosexual counterparts. In addition, a lifetime of social stigma causes many LGBT older adults to fear that they will face hostile or unwelcoming health care providers, or might encounter care workers who are unfamiliar with the needs of the LGBT community—pushing them back in the closet and preventing them from receiving the quality of care they deserve.

The new resources include:

- [Informative articles](#) on a number of LGBT caregiving issues, from the legal documents LGBT caregivers need, to finding LGBT-friendly home care workers
- [Videos](#) that vividly illustrate the issues unique to LGBT caregiving
- [Publications](#) for LGBT older adults and service providers, such as financial planning tool kits, tips for working with transgender clients and the latest research on LGBT aging issues
- [Links to local resources in communities across the country](#), from caregiving and health care locators, to LGBT community centers

- [Training and continuing education resources](#) for aging services providers and LGBT organizations to help ensure that institutions serving older adults are welcoming to LGBT elders.

[<http://www.lgbtagingcenter.org/>]

National Senior Citizen Law Center Issues Policy Brief Series: Medicaid Payment for Assisted Living

Medicaid payment for assisted living is a burgeoning issue, in New York and nationwide, as a result of greater recognition of the right of individuals to access care in the least restrictive setting possible for them, increasing pressure on states to implement that right and the growing interest of the frail elderly and younger disabled in accessing residential care services in settings that are less institutional than the traditional nursing home.

However, though assisted living is an increasingly utilized alternative for those who need care and assistance but wish to avoid nursing home placement, the legal and regulatory standards established to protect those consumers in nursing homes have not followed for those who access assisted living. For nursing homes, standards are predicated on significant nursing home standards that were promulgated close to 25 years ago. Over the years, many states have supplemented these with additional standards, particularly in areas where it has become clear that the federal rules were insufficient to ensure that nursing homes met even minimum standards (for instance, a number of states have imposed minimum nursing home staffing standards in attempts to address the longstanding issue of nursing homes being understaffed).

Unfortunately, from a consumer perspective, though assisted living is caring for an increasingly frail and vulnerable population, there are no federal standards *whatsoever* addressing critical issues such as quality of care, quality of life, basic residents' rights, staff training or professionalism, etc.... Thus, LTCCC and other consumer groups across the country have been working to address these issues, as reports of problems – such as poor care, abuse (medical, physical, emotional and financial) and discrimination - continue to grow.

These policy briefs from the National Senior Citizen Law Center address a variety of issues relevant to protecting potential and current assisted living residents who depend on Medicaid. They include: [Transfer of Assets: Making Assisted Living Residents Ineligible Forever](#); [Preventing Discrimination Against Medicaid Eligible Individuals](#); and [Providing a Home Like Character](#) in Medicaid-eligible assisted living.

[<http://medicaidseries.org/>. For LTCCC's website dedicated to assisted living quality and oversight: <http://www.assisted-living411.org/>.]

[Spotlight on Advocacy: Congressional Budget Proposals to Cut or “Cap” Medicaid & Medicare Put Decades of Progress at Risk](#)

Congressional proposals to reduce the budget deficit are putting Medicare, Medicaid, long-term care services at serious risk. Major improvements resulting from decades of advocacy for nursing home reform and for the rights of people to access services in their homes and communities are on the line. Please speak out now to your members of Congress and President Obama and let them know that we don't want to turn back the clock!

[Please send a message now to your senators and representatives in Congress and to President Obama.](#)

We're on the Web!

www.ltccc.org: Our main website, with access to all of our issues, policy briefs and research.

www.assisted-living411.org: For information on assisted living, including consumer issues and policies.

www.nursinghome411.org: For information on developments in nursing home care, regulation and policy issues.

Watch LTCCC's executive director, Richard Mollot, discuss nursing homes, assisted living & Alzheimer's care on [Getting Your Money's Worth](#).

LTCCC Links of Interest

- View the latest enforcement actions against nursing homes in New York State.
- Read the latest edition of LTCCC's quarterly newsletter, *The Monitor*.
- Long term care information booklet in [Chinese](#) and [English](#) for Chinese consumers: *What You Need to Know about Long Term Care*.
- [Tools for Stakeholders & National Report](#) on Increasing Transparency and Consumer Involvement in States' Uses of Nursing Home Civil Money Penalties to Improve Care and Quality of Life.
- LTCCC study: *Government Monitoring & Oversight of Nursing Home Care* in [Word 2007](#) or [PDF](#).

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