

# Perspectives

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## Advanced Standing Kick-Off

HCANJ was honored to have Department of Health & Senior Services (DHSS) Commissioner Mary O'Dowd join us to celebrate the new collaboration between DHSS and the HCANJ Foundation called Advanced Standing.

Advanced Standing is a voluntary program that requires facilities to adhere to all federal, state and local regulations as well as meet quality benchmarks. "So that tells you that this provider has taken the effort and spent the money to invest in improving the standards of care they provide" O'Dowd said. The Commissioner offered that the facilities that obtain this distinction will be so designated on the State's website. Member facilities will also have a special designation on the HCANJ website.

Also in attendance to share his views and comments on Advanced Standing was James McCracken, the Ombudsman for the Institutionalized Elderly who praised the efforts of DHSS and HCANJ in this collaboration. Jackie Pinkowitz from the Consumer Consortium of Assisted Living stated that she wished Advanced Standing had been around when she was looking for an assisted living community for her four immediate family members. And David Kylo from the National Center for Assisted Living commented on this program being the first of its kind to combine quality benchmarking with regulatory compliance.

"Assisted Living providers in New Jersey have long subscribed to the concept of quality care in a setting that provides the highest possible quality of life," Paul R. Langevin, Jr., president of the Health Care Association of New Jersey, said. "The Advanced Standing program will give them an opportunity to prove the standards of excellence they have set for themselves."

The event took place at Brandywine Senior Living at Princeton and was hosted by Brenda Bacon, President & CEO of Brandywine Senior Living and Vice Chair of the Assisted Living Federation of America.



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**Public Notices**

The Division of Health Facilities Evaluation and Licensing published notice that the examination fee charged to applicants for nursing home administrator licensure are being increased from \$280 to \$350, effective April 1, 2012. This is in accordance with the examination fee increase approved by National Association of the Board of Governors (NAB) for Nursing Home Administrators on November 11, 2011.

The notice appears in the February 6, 2012 *New Jersey Register* at 44 N.J.R. 312 (b).

**Rule Adoptions**

The Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services readopted with amendments the Medicaid Only rules, N.J.A.C. 10:71-4.7. In addition to technical changes and agency name updates, there were substantive changes which include increasing the maximum period of time normally essential to process an application for the aged from 30 to 45 days and for the disabled or blind from 60 to 90 days.

Another new provision incorporates a Deficit Reduction Act (DRA) of 2005 requirement that states deny eligibility to individuals seeking nursing facility services or other long-term care services who have substantial equity interest in their home, originally defined by the DRA as being at least \$500,000 and not to exceed \$750,000. New Jersey amended its State Plan to opt for the maximum amount.

Also in accordance with the DRA of 2005, an amendment was adopted to delete reference to the prior 36 month look-back period, which was changed to 60 months for applications made after the enactment of the DRA.

Notice of this adoption appears in the February 6, 2012 *New Jersey Register* at 44 N.J.R. 230(a). The readoption took effect December 29, 2011 and the amendments and repeal took effect on February 6, 2012.

**HCANJ's  
Annual  
Assisted Living  
Conference**

Mark your calendars for HCANJ's annual assisted living conference. This year's program is being held on Tuesday, May 8, 2012 at the Sheraton Eatontown. Information will be available soon on HCANJ's website at [www.hcanj.org](http://www.hcanj.org) under "Education."