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[ODJFS proposes cutting oxygen service rates by as much as 57 percent](#) –

The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) has proposed a rule that would reduce direct billed oxygen services by as much as 57 percent. The proposed rate changes are as follows:

	Current Rate	Proposed Rate
E1390 Oxygen concentrator	\$178.56	\$75.00
E1391 Oxygen concentrator dual port	\$178.56	\$75.00
E1390 U1 Oxygen concentrator in private residence	\$192.84	\$81.00
E1391 Oxygen concentrator in private residence	\$192.84	\$81.00

The cut is part of a proposed rule that would change the rate of nearly every service found in Appendix DD. According to ODJFS, the rate changes for physician billed services, the majority in Appendix DD, are based upon Medicare rates for similar services. ODJFS claims the rate reduction for oxygen service brings it more in line with private pay rates. The Academy is concerned that dramatic reductions to Medicaid oxygen service rates would have a significant impact on the private oxygen market. The change in the oxygen market would have a negative impact on SNFs purchasing oxygen services in the private market. **Value Purchasing Program:** In related news, ODJFS also proposed a rule change that would competitively bid incontinence supplies by creating a value purchasing program. The rule is similar to the value purchasing rule that was proposed last year for all supplies, but later withdrawn by the department. For more information, contact [Chris Murray](#). ([Back to top](#)).

[Proposed PASSPORT eligibility rules expand cost cap](#) – Rules recently proposed by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services would expand the cost cap for PASSPORT waiver consumers from 60 percent of the cost of a nursing facility to 100 percent of the cost of a nursing facility. A person would still have to be under the 60 percent cap to initially qualify for PASSPORT services; however, once enrolled in the program, the person's costs for services could increase to the 100 percent cap. The rule also adds community transition services and non-medical transportation to the list of available services, and allows PASSPORT recipients to subsequently enroll in hospice services. For more information, contact [Chris Murray](#). ([Back to top](#)).

Save the date for discounted CEUs – Mark your calendar for the upcoming regional education program “**Urinary Incontinence in Long-Term Care.**” The Academy has once again partnered with PureService Pharmacy and several drug manufacturers to offer this new regional education program at a greatly discounted price. It will be held in Cincinnati on May 20 and in Cleveland on September 16. This class will cover a variety of incontinence issues including types of urinary incontinence, evaluation and F-tags. It will offer four BENHA CEUs and lunch at a greatly reduced price! Academy members may attend this program for only \$35 and non-members may attend for \$50. Watch your mailboxes and faxes for information. For questions, contact [Dawn Kennedy](#). ([Back to top](#)).

A few great speakers still needed to present at OANH Annual Convention – Do you have important information to share with the LTC community? OANH is still looking for a few great presenters for the 2008 OANH Annual Convention & Trade Show. As a presenter at the Annual Convention, you will be able to share your knowledge with others in the long-term care industry. The OANH call for presentation can be completed and submitted via the OANH website or printed and faxed. Go to <http://www.oanh.org/2007.shtml> to view and submit the application. If you have any questions about the application or being a presenter please contact [Dawn Kennedy](#). ([Back to top](#)).

March AL Waiver Update – The Ohio Department of Aging released the March Assisted Living (AL) Waiver Update last week. The update contains information on the recently amended AL Waiver, including practice implications for each change. The update also contains ODJFS guidance related to client liability questions, information on provider billing, double occupancy guidelines, and an update on the SCRIPPs evaluation. A PDF of the update can be [downloaded here](#). For more information on the AL Waiver program, please contact [Chris Murray](#). ([Back to top](#)).

Unified Long-Term Care Budget committee discusses recommendations – The Unified Long-Term Care Budget (ULTCB) committee met last Thursday and reviewed and adopted recommendations from the Quality Assurance and Care Management Subcommittees. There was also an update on the Home Choice (Money Follows the Person) project. CMS has asked for a more detailed revision from the operational protocol ODJFS submitted on December 31, 2007. A balancing plan was presented for this revision which proposes how Ohio will spend the “savings” resulting from the implementations of the MFP. The balancing plan also encompasses some of the activities recommended by the various ULTCB work groups. Ohio’s projected savings to 2011 is \$20 million which includes moving 2,231 people to their “home choice.” The committee also reviewed the “Front Door” final recommendations. Its structure, post-acute care intervention, financial eligibility and criteria for accessing long-term care services and support were assessed. Work group members made several suggestions for changes, and a revised version will be forwarded. The next meeting will be Tuesday, March 25. ([Back to top](#)).

Register NOW for 2008 Safety Congress – The 2008 Safety Congress is just around the corner, so if you haven’t registered do so NOW! The 78th Safety Congress is slated for Tuesday – Thursday, April 1-3 and will be held at the Columbus Convention Center. This annual conference is one of the largest gatherings in the United States singularly dedicated to this cause. The free event is designed to provide a flexible yet customized, industry-focused learning approach to promote safety in the workplace. This year’s congress will feature more than 150 educational sessions and nearly 250 exhibitors. Visit <http://www.ohioabc.com/employer/programs/safety/SafetyCongress.asp> for more information. ([Back to top](#)).

“Hit the links” with Academy golfers on June 5 – Join your fellow Academy golfers as they “hit the links” on Thursday, June 5 at the fifth Annual OANH PAC Golf Outing. This year the outing will be held at the private Scioto Reserve Golf Club in Powell. Registration and lunch will begin at 11:30 a.m. with a shotgun start at 1 p.m. After a challenging game of golf, attendees will stay at the course for food, drinks and prizes at “19th Hole.” Prices are \$250 per golfer or \$950 per foursome. Various sponsorships are available for companies and vendors interested in showing their support. Registration brochures will be mailed next week. For more information contact [Dawn Kennedy](#). ([Back to top](#)).

BWC to hold public forum on medical service improvements – The Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation Board of Directors will host the first of two public forums on medical service improvements of interest and concern to Ohio's employers and employees. The forum, **Medical Issues Part I: Providers, will be held from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Thursday, April 24, at the William Green Building, located at 30 W. Spring St., Columbus** . The first 90 minutes of the forum will focus on enhancing BWC's medical provider network including:

- Identifying barriers that keep quality providers from participating in BWC's program that, if removed, would enhance the delivery of quality, cost-effective medical treatment;
- Identifying strategies BWC could implement to enhance provider performance for the delivery of quality, cost-effective health care and return-to-work services.

The final 30 minutes of the session will be open for public comment on any BWC policies, procedures or programs. A second forum is planned for Thursday, June 26 from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. and will focus on:

- Scope of coverage and level of benefits for medical, vocational rehabilitation and pharmaceutical services;
- Reimbursement methodologies for these treatments; and
- Best practices for assuring efficient and effective delivery of the managed care process.

Medical providers, representatives of industries and associations and the general public are encouraged to register using the form available at ohiobwc.com. On-site registration also will be accepted. Speakers will be selected on a first-come, first-served basis. Those who wish to speak may also send the following information to PublicForum@bwc.state.oh.us or fax it to (614) 621-9412: name, title, company/association representing, mailing address, email address, phone number and summary of presentation. Confirmation e-mails will be sent after your registration form is received. BWC will notify participants of their allotted time to speak by April 22, 2008. For information about the registration process, contact Tammy Blackburn at 614/995-1821 or Tamara.B.2@BWC.state.oh.us. For information about the BWC Board of Directors, please contact Don Berno, board liaison, at 614/728-0756 or Donald.Berno@bwc.state.oh.us ([Back to top](#)).

Register for April 3 OPC3 conference; space is limited – The Ohio Person Centered Care Coalition Conference will be April 3, 2008 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Aladdin Shrine Center in Columbus. With this conference, the OPC3 will strive to provide insight into the lives of nursing home residents and staff members and how they are impacted by culture change. You can register at <http://www.centeredcare.org/conference2008/>, however, registration is reaching maximum capacity and space may be limited. For more information, please contact [Christina O'Neal](#). ([Back to top](#)).

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