

# DIRECTORS OF NURSING / DIETITIAN / CLINICAL STAFF REGISTRATION

For convention registration visit [members.nycachca.com/eventcalendar](http://members.nycachca.com/eventcalendar) or fill out the form below.

If you wish to enroll additional participants, please print additional forms:

## ALL REGISTRATIONS MUST BE PREPAID

### IMPORTANT

1. This program has been submitted to the appropriate licensure board for approval.
2. ACHCA cancellation policy: Full refund on cancellations postmarked no later than 01/31/26. There will be a \$75 administrative fee charged after that date. No refund after 02/20/26.
3. Program reservations should be made directly with New York Chapter ACHCA (see form).
4. \$25 of non-member registration fee may be applied to College membership if the application is mailed within 60 days of this convention.
5. Complete convention registration form, **include payment.**

#### Return to:

ACHCA/NYC  
c/o Anthony Restaino  
1250 67th Street  
Brooklyn, NY 11219

### REGISTRATION FEE INCLUDES

- Socials
  - Educational programs and all literature and educational materials including the Idea Exchange
  - Entrance to exhibit hall
  - Coffee breaks
  - ACHCA welcome gifts
  - Convention journal
  - Installation banquet
- For further information please contact:  
**Anthony Restaino at (718) 306-5642**

Please Print

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_ Facility \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse/Guest \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

License No./State(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a licensed nursing home admin?  Yes  No NAB # \_\_\_\_\_

Dining Options:

Regular  Kosher  Gluten Free  Vegetarian

### ADVANCE CONVENTION REGISTRATION

Member Fee (\$549.00 ea.)\* ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Non-Member Fee (\$599.00 ea.) ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse/Guest/Student\*\* (\$250.00 ea.) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL REMITTANCE** ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Registration after 1/31/2026 or on-site registration fee:

- Member \$649.00
- Non-Member \$699.00

\*If you or your administrator is a member of ACHCA, NYSHFA  
\*\*Student of long term care (A.I.T.) or spouse with no license

### MULTI FACILITY PACKAGE

Multi Facility Group Registration (On-line registration not available)

Register all employees and spouses/guests for a combined group fee. Please complete this form and return.

Once received, a spreadsheet for your attendees will be provided to you.

Member Fee \$2,500.00 | Non-Member Fee \$2,800.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL REMITTANCE (MULTI FACILITY PACKAGE)** ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES/GUESTS** ..... \_\_\_\_\_

Card Type:

MasterCard  Visa  Amex  Discover

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ CVV \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Card \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

**Make Checks Payable To: NYC-ACHCA**

Registration Confirmed \_\_\_\_\_



**Resorts World**  
CATSKILLS  
CASINO • RESORT



**ATTENTION DIRECTORS OF NURSING / DIETITIAN / CLINICAL STAFF!**

# 56<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL CONVENTION | MARCH 8-11, 2026

## DIRECTORS OF NURSING / DIETITIAN / CLINICAL STAFF AGENDA

### SUNDAY 03/8/2026

11:00 am – 6:00 pm Registration  
1:00 pm – 2:30 pm Compliance, Enforcement and the OBBBA  
2:45 pm - 4:15 pm Surviving Medicare and HMO Audits  
6:00 pm Dinner – On Your Own

### MONDAY 03/9/2026

7:30 am – 5:30 pm Registration  
7:30 am – 9:00 am Breakfast  
9:00 am - 10:30 am **KEYNOTE:** Managing When No One Wants to Work  
10:00 am – 3:00 pm Exhibitor Set Up  
10:30 am – 10:45 am Break  
10:45 am - 12:15 pm GLP-1 and GLP-2 in Long Term Care  
12:15 pm – 2:00 pm Awards Luncheon & Chapter Business Meeting  
2:15 pm - 3:45 pm Coding and Best Practices for MDS: Connecting Care, Compliance and Reimbursement  
4:00 pm - 5:30 pm IDEA EXCHANGE  
6:00 pm – 7:30 pm Dinner - Main Dining Area  
7:30 pm – 9:00 pm Opening of Exhibits – NY Chapter Cocktail Reception

### TUESDAY 03/10/2026

7:00 am – 8:30 am Breakfast  
7:30 am – 5:30 pm Registration  
8:30 am - 10:00 am The MDS Connection: Linking Assessment Accuracy to Quality  
10:00 am – 11:00 am Exhibits Open  
11:00 am - 12:30 pm Modern Reimbursement Theory: Breaking the Language Barrier  
12:30 pm – 2:00 pm Lunch - Main Dining Area  
2:00 pm - 3:30 pm Effectively Leading Change  
3:30 pm – 5:00 pm Exhibits Open  
5:00 pm - 6:00 pm The Wild West of Long Term Care  
6:30 pm – 7:30 pm President's Reception  
7:30 pm – 9:30 pm Installation Banquet

### WEDNESDAY 03/11/2026

7:00 am – 8:30 am Breakfast  
8:45 am – 10:00 am Exhibits Open  
10:00 am Exhibitor Breakdown  
10:00 am - 11:30 am Quality Reporting Audits: Coming Soon to an SNF Near You!  
11:45 am - 1:15 pm Driving Quality, Driving Success  
1:15 pm Lunch – On Your Own



**NYSHFA**  
NYS HEALTH FACILITIES ASSOCIATION

**NYSCAL**  
NYS CENTER FOR ASSISTED LIVING

# 56<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL CONVENTION



## Directors of Nursing/Dietitian/Clinical Staff Program & Registration

MARCH 8-11, 2026  
RESORTS WORLD CATSKILLS

[MEMBERS.NYCACHCA.COM/EVENTCALENDAR](http://MEMBERS.NYCACHCA.COM/EVENTCALENDAR)

**ACHCA MEMBERSHIP:  
THE KEY TO SUCCESS**

Dear Colleague:

It is our pleasure to invite you to the New York Chapter of the American College of Health Care Administrators 56th Annual Convention, March 8 – 11, 2026 at Resorts World Catskills. It's an exciting opportunity to join your industry peers and learn from experts in your field. We are excited to build upon the enhancements we have made to our program while continuing to bring you the best possible experience and return on your investment, including a stellar line up of speakers and a return to our new venue.

Our conference theme, "ACHCA Membership: The Key to Success" embodies what our organization truly stands for, representing a spirit of professional growth, inspirational leadership and understanding of our industry. We are guided by the vision that dynamic leadership fosters long term health care services that are meaningful, successful and efficient. Our Education Committee has gone to great lengths to provide educational programs that are inspiring, promote professional development opportunities and position you for success in an ever-changing health care environment. Our program includes sessions for Administrators, Financial Managers and Directors of Nursing/Clinical staff. Participants have the opportunity to earn 17.5 continuing education credits in these break-out sessions.

This year we are eager to return to our exciting new venue, the Resorts World Catskills in Monticello, NY. Visit our 50 corporate sponsors in the spacious exhibit hall and enjoy an unmatched experience in excitement, entertainment and luxury featuring 100,000 square feet of Las Vegas style gaming, 10 bar and restaurant experiences, the Crystal Life Spa and live entertainment! Resort World Catskills offers an array of indulgent food including Glatt Kosher cuisine. Don't forget to join us Monday night to network with colleagues and vendors at the New York Chapter Welcome Reception and the Opening of Exhibit Hall.

We hope you will join us for another successful year! It is more important than ever to understand the challenges of our industry and plan for success through education and advocacy.

We look forward to seeing you at Resorts World Catskills. If you attend only one convention in 2026 make it this one.

Sincerely,

The Convention Committee



**REGISTER TODAY & SAVE!**

[members.nycachca.com/eventcalendar](https://members.nycachca.com/eventcalendar)

EARLY BIRD Member Price \$549, Non-Member \$599

## EXPERIENCE THE RESORTS WORLD CATSKILLS!

Enjoy an unmatched experience in excitement, entertainment and luxury featuring 100,000 square feet of Las Vegas style gaming, 10 bar and restaurant experiences, the Crystal Life Spa and live entertainment on four stages!

## HOTEL RESERVATIONS: RESORTS WORLD CATSKILLS

Reserve your room now at special convention rates by visiting [www.rwcatkills.com](http://www.rwcatkills.com) or call the Reservations Department at (833) 586-9358 to reserve your room using Booking ID# 2867.

## SPECIAL CONVENTION PRICING

The Alder (1 King) .....	\$145.00 per night	RWC Tower (1 King) .....	\$205.00 per night
The Alder (2 Queens) .....	\$195.00 per night	RWC Tower (2 Queens) .....	\$205.00 per night

# 56<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL CONVENTION

**SUNDAY, MARCH 8, 2026**

**1:00PM – 2:30PM**

**SPEAKER:** Lourdes Martinez, Esq.

**SESSION:** Hot Takes for 2026 – Compliance, Enforcement and the OBBBA

**SUMMARY:** Join Lourdes Martinez, Partner at Sheppard Mullin Richter & Hampton, LLP, as she discusses the latest in compliance, enforcement and the One Big Beautiful Bill Act. Discussion will include an overview of current enforcement and initiatives, the impact of major regulatory changes and how to prepare and best protect your facility.

**2:45 PM – 4:15 PM**

**SPEAKER:** Nelia Adaci RN, BSN, RAC-MT, RAC-MTA, DNS-MT

**SESSION:** Surviving Medicare and HMO Audits – A Practical Approach: the Proof is in the Coding

**SUMMARY:** Claims Audits – such as Recovery Audit Contractor (RAC) Audits and Targeted Probe and Educate (TPE) Probes – are becoming increasingly frequent. Auditors are now denying claims for reasons that were rarely challenged in the past. Medical reviewers are applying Medicare and regulatory guidelines with greater scrutiny. This presentation will provide an overview of CMS's initiatives to identify Medicare Payment Errors via data Analysis, Claims and Records Review. During this session, we will discuss approaches to avoid denials and explore practical strategies to overturn denials in the appeals process.

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES:**

- Identify the various Claims & Medical Review Contractors: “Our Esteemed Auditors” – RAC, MAC, UPIC, SMRC, etc.
- List the most common reasons for Claim Denials & Recoveries: “Facilities’ Vulnerabilities”
- Discuss practical strategies on how to prepare and be successful in audits.
- Enumerate the 5 Levels of Appeal for Denied Claims

**MONDAY, MARCH 9, 2026**

**9:00AM – 10:30AM**

**SPEAKERS:** Ralph Peterson

**SESSION:** Managing When No One Wants to Work

**SUMMARY:** With turnover rates in senior care reaching 60%, retaining staff has become

one of the industry’s greatest challenges—and culture, not compensation, is the root cause. In this energetic and eye-opening keynote, Ralph Peterson challenges traditional assumptions and offers actionable strategies for building a workplace culture that supports, respects, and retains caregivers. Using humor, stories, and real-world tools, Ralph empowers leaders to transform their teams and boost retention by improving communication, trust, and teamwork.

- Discover why culture—not pay—is the #1 driver of employee turnover
- Identify the signs of a toxic work environment and how to fix them
- Learn how to foster trust, collaboration, and appreciation in your team
- Walk away with practical tools to build a culture employees want to be part of

**10:45AM – 12:15PM**

**SPEAKERS:** Mary Fitzpatrick, RDN, CDN Maryann DeSalvo, RDN, CDN

**SESSION:** “The Role of GLP-1 & GLP-2 Therapy for Older Adults in the LTC Setting”



**SUMMARY:** Join us for this timely and informative lecture on improving health outcomes in the era of GLP therapies. Gain a deeper understanding of their use in the treatment of Diabetes, Obesity and related Cardiovascular and Renal conditions in the older population. Learn about the benefits and risks of GLP therapy, the common side effects and how to prevent complications. This lecture is essential for long term care professionals at the forefront of diabetes and weight management for their clients.

**2:15PM – 3:45PM**

**SPEAKERS:** Alicia Cantinieri, MA, BSN, RN, CHC, CMDP, RAC-MT, RAC-CTA, DNS-CT, QCP

**SESSION:** Conversations that Count: Coding and Best Practices for MDS Interview Sections C, D, F, and J— The Key to Connecting Care, Compliance, and Reimbursement

**SUMMARY:** The MDS interview sections—Cognitive Patterns (C), Mood (D), Preferences for Customary Routine and Activities (F), and Pain (J)—play a vital role not only in capturing the resident’s voice but also in influencing both Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement under PDPM and state case-mix systems. Accurate interview completion directly affects quality measures, Five-Star ratings, and compliance outcomes, while also shaping payment categories such as Nursing and Non-Therapy Ancillary components. This session will provide practical strategies and best practices for conducting and coding resident interviews, interpreting responses, and documenting clinical rationale when interviews cannot be completed. Attendees will learn how to link interview results to reimbursement drivers, interdisciplinary care planning, and survey readiness—ensuring both regulatory compliance and accurate payment.

**OBJECTIVES:**

1. Describe the regulatory intent, structure, and impact of MDS interview Sections C, D, F, and J on care planning and reimbursement.
2. Explain how interview coding influences PDPM and Medicaid case-mix components tied to Medicare and state-specific reimbursement systems.
3. Identify best practices and common errors in conducting and coding interviews that can affect payment accuracy, quality measures, and survey outcomes.
4. Apply interview findings to documentation, interdisciplinary care planning, and compliance strategies that support accurate reimbursement and resident-centered care.

**4:00PM – 5:30PM**

**SPEAKERS:** Various Vendors

**SESSION:** Idea Exchange

**SUMMARY:** The New York Chapter will hold an Idea Exchange session, which offers a unique educational opportunity for face-to-face interaction between conference participants and industry experts about

# DIRECTORS OF NURSING / DIETITIAN / CLINICAL STAFF PROGRAM

innovative care and service concepts. The Idea Exchange spotlights creative solutions to challenges in long-term care while creating a network for ongoing collaboration and problem-solving.

## TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 2026

### 8:30AM – 10:00AM

**SPEAKERS:** Alicia Cantinieri, MA, BSN, RN, CHC, CMDP, RAC-MT, RAC-CTA, DNS-CT, QCP

**SESSION:** The MDS Connection: Linking Assessment Accuracy to Quality, QRP, and VBP Success

**SUMMARY:** The Minimum Data Set (MDS) is more than a compliance requirement—it is the foundation for success in Quality Measures (QM), the Quality Reporting Program (QRP), and the SNF Value-Based Purchasing (VBP) program. Every coded item contributes to outcomes that drive Five-Star ratings, reimbursement incentives, and public reporting on the Care Compare website. This session will explore how accurate, timely, and complete MDS assessments influence performance metrics, financial outcomes, and regulatory compliance. Participants will learn strategies to strengthen interdisciplinary collaboration, prevent data errors, and align assessment practices with quality and value-based goals. Learning Objectives:

1. Describe the relationship between MDS accuracy and facility performance in Quality Measures, QRP, and VBP.
2. Identify key MDS items that directly impact publicly reported quality outcomes and financial incentives.
3. Recognize how coding and scheduling errors can negatively affect quality, performance, and reimbursement.
4. Implement best practices for interdisciplinary coordination to ensure MDS integrity and optimize quality program success.

### 11:00AM – 12:30PM

**SPEAKERS:** Marc Zimmet, CEO  
Jay Gormley, CIO

**SESSION:** Modern Reimbursement Theory: Breaking the Language Barrier

**SUMMARY:** Languages evolve quickly in isolated communities, where vocabulary and grammar are shaped by environment and shared experience. For example, life in the Arctic Circle gave rise to dozens of common terms for snow across Inuit languages, but

none for “sand”. The same pattern holds across Skilled Nursing departments. The Medicare Cost Report and Minimum Data Set are isolated from each other and, as such, never cross-pollinated terminology. Operators cared little for activity outside their home state and rarely noticed as divergent policies, priorities, and practicalities fractured reimbursement’s fluency across the country. Now, as Medicaid payment methodologies are being updated, states often look to neighbors for inspiration—only to find that good ideas don’t translate across systems. This session is designed to break the language barrier with Modern Reimbursement Theory, a data-driven approach aligned with the SNF economic realities of unique providers. Concepts discussed during this presentation set the tone for the entire conference.

### 2:00PM – 3:30PM

**SPEAKERS:** Bob Cooper

**SESSION:** Effectively Leading Change - Inspiring Excellence in the Ever-Changing Health Care Environment.

**SUMMARY:** This session reviews specific strategies for leaders to effectively assist their team to handle any change(s) that may occur. A focus is placed on the leader’s ability to inspire others by building trust and demonstrating high emotional intelligence in a highly engaged and motivating work environment.

### 5:00PM – 6:00PM

**SPEAKERS:** Joseph Martello, CPA  
Suzanne Breit, CPA  
Brian P. Lee, CPA

**SESSION:** The Wild West of Long-Term Care

**SUMMARY:** The Long-Term Post Acute Care Industry is riding through a Wild West of challenges—stagnant reimbursements, unpredictable funding, mounting costs, and tougher regulations. Providers who don’t keep their boots on the ground and adapt could find their revenue streams drying up, profit margins shrinking, and run into compliance trouble. This session will serve as your guide to navigating the latest updates on reimbursement, operations, and regulations, spotlighting the toughest obstacles on the frontier, showing you how to measure them, and sharing strategies to avoid the common pitfalls that can catch anyone off guard.

## WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 2026

### 10:00AM – 11:30AM

**SPEAKERS:** Maureen McCarthy, RN, BS RAC-MT, CQP

**SESSION:** Quality Reporting Audits: Coming Soon to a SNF Near You!

**SUMMARY:** CMS has officially launched the new SNF QRP Validation Program, and administrators are beginning to see how this next-level audit process can impact both compliance and the bottom line. Unlike past reviews, this validation process scrutinizes MDS accuracy and supporting documentation to confirm data integrity, and findings can directly influence a facility’s compliance standing. Noncompliance, even in coding or documentation, can trigger up to a 2% reduction in next year’s Annual Payment Update, making preparation critical. This session will explore what’s new in the QRP validation process, highlight emerging audit trends and key risk areas from 2025, and preview upcoming changes to both QRP and the SNF Value-Based Purchasing Program (VBP) that will affect reporting and reimbursement in 2026. Learn practical strategies to strengthen documentation, align staff workflows, and leverage facility data to safeguard revenue and performance metrics. Leave ready to ensure your facility is both audit-ready and financially protected in the new year.

### 11:45PM – 1:15PM

**SPEAKERS:** Mary Gracey-White, RN, BSN, QCP

**SESSION:** Driving Quality, Driving Success

**SUMMARY:** This session is designed to provide information on current Survey Trends while providing strategies to improve Survey outcomes. The focus will be on driving forward quality daily to improve outcomes. Mary Gracey-White will provide insight into specific survey citations and tips to avoid. The presentation will include discussion on reportable occurrences, resident abuse, and tips for thorough investigations. Behavioral Health management, to improve quality, will be incorporated into the topic of Abuse Prevention.