# SeniorWorks Your Partner in Care

# Special Care Insurance Program

The only dental (oral), vision, podiatry, ear and auidology care, and emotional/behavioral health care program which includes routine and preventative care for nursing home residents in Arkansas.





#### How are you currently addressing the needs of your residents when it comes to:

- Dental/Oral
- Vision
- Podiatry
- Ear care/Audiology
- Emotional & Behavioral Health

Are your residents getting comprehensive in-facility care including glasses, preventative services, fillings, extractions, dentures, hearing aids, psychiatric care etc.?

### With the Special Care Insurance Program offered through Senior Care Solutions (Program Administrator):

- Providers using portable equipment provide treatment to insured residents in the facility.
- The services are funded through fully insured dental (oral), vision, podiatry, ear care (to include audiology), emotional/behavioral insurance with no co-payments and no deductibles for in-network services.
- The insurance is available to Medicaid residents and for private pay residents there is a fee for service program as well.
- The Special Care Insurance Program insurance premiums are an allowable deduction under Medicaid, meaning that for eligible Medicaid residents the insurance premiums can be paid with no additional out-of-pocket cost. The patient liability to the facility is reduced by the amount of the premiums and Medicaid makes up the difference to the facility.
- There is a one-time authorization by DHS for the premium which eliminates continual offset adjustments. In facility care reduces liability and cost through the reduced need to transport residents off site for treatment.

### Dental (Oral) Care



Residents of health care facilities have specialized dental (oral) care needs. There is a strong connection between the oral health and the general health for this population. Overgrowth of bacteria in the mouth can lead to gum infections that can increase the development of the plaque that contributes to strokes and heart attacks. The mere breathing of these bacteria can create a significant risk factor in contracting pneumonia. Even if a resident has no teeth or dentures, they still need to be seen by a dentist for oral care screenings to assist in controlling these bacteria.

#### **Dental/Oral Services Include:**

- Dental providers go inside the facility to provide comprehensive care for the residents using state-of-the-art portable equipment. (Providers include: dentists, registered dental hygienists, and registered dental assistants.)
- The broad range of oral procedures includes (but not limited to) exams, x-rays, cleaning, extractions, fillings, dentures, new relines, repairs.
- Oral health care in service training for your staff on proper dental care.
- Oral Cancer Screenings

# Ear Care and Audiology



Nursing home residents can now have the benefit of having an Ear Care and Audiology Program inside your facility. The problems associated with earwax buildup become more common as we age. Dryness of the skin occurs including the ear canal. This dry skin inhibits earwax from draining naturally. As people age, it is common to experience a heavier growth of cilia (tiny hairs in the ear). The additional cilia may lead to excessive earwax and excessive ear wax can lead to hearing loss and middle ear infections. Middle ear issues are a contributing factor to falls for nursing home residents. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, falls among older adults cost the U.S. health care system over \$30 billion a year.

#### The Ear Care & Audiology Services Include:

- Otoscopy Exam
- · Cerumen (wax) Removal
- Pure Tone Testing
- Repeat Words
- Hearing assessment Interview
- Hearing Aids

### **Podiatry**

Problems with the feet for residents in nursing homes are extremely important especially when a resident is in pain or has become disabled due to a foot ailment. Proper care and maintenance of all foot and ankle problems will most definitely maximize the quality of life for nursing home residents who already face reduced mobility due to health and age.

#### **Podiatry Services Include:**

- · Routine Foot Care
- Limb Preservation
- Fall Prevention
- Infection Control
- · Circulatory (Vascular) Evaluation
- Dermatologic Evaluation (Cancer & Abnormal Lesions)
- Neurologic Evaluation
- Orthopedic Evaluation
- · CNAs Utilized More Efficiently
- Quality Assurance
- Diabetic shoes will be made available for those residents who qualify under Medicare

The Podiatry program will free up your CNA's time so that they will be able to utilize it elsewhere, providing for your residents' various needs and will provide routine care for residents who may require services which are not covered by Medicare AND for your residents who have qualifying conditions for Medicare reimbursement.

#### Vision Care



Vision care can have a profound effect on the health and quality of life for the residents of long term care facilities as the ability to perform activities of daily living is highly correlated to vision. Most all residents have at least one eye problem and an eye examination can provide early detection of some general health issues.

#### **Testing Preformed**

- Visual Acuity Test/Dilated Fundus Exams
- · Computerized Auto-Refraction
- Glaucoma Testing
- Portable Biomicroscopy-Slit Lamp (Cataract& Implant Evaluation)
- · Retinal Imaging equipment
- Ophthalmoscopy (Retinal Evaluation)
- · Trial Lens Refraction
- · Fitting of Glasses when needed

#### Paws 4 Seniors

Paws 4 Seniors is a program which places canine companions in nursing homes throughout Arkansas. Paws 4 Seniors resident dogs can provide psychological and physiological benefits associated with pet therapy and pet ownership. Canine companion dogs undergo careful evaluation and thorough training to be well suited to living in a nursing home environment.

The dogs chosen for this special assignment may be any age or breed. They are well mannered and naturally friendly with people of all ages as well as other dogs who may reside at or visit the facility. Their primary role is to share their love and bring a smile to all they meet.

The dogs used in the Paws 4 Seniors program provide affection and unconditional love to the nursing home residents which also brings out smiles, lowers blood pressure and brings a heart rate to a normal range. Many of the dogs placed in the Paws 4 Seniors program have been trained by the Paws in Prison program in Arkansas.

# Emotional & Behavioral Health



According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 67% of residents in nursing homes have mental disorders. In March 2012, CMS launched the "National Initiative to Improve Behavioral Health and Reduce the Use of Antipsychotic Medications in Nursing Home Residents" project. According to the American Geriatrics Society, approximately 40% of nursing home residents are affected by depression in a given year.

To address the various issues surrounding behavioral health in nursing homes residents, SeniorWorks' has designed an Emotional & Behavioral Health Program. The E&BHP is an integrated program within the facility that provides services that include:

- · In service/education for your entire staff.
- Assessment to determine the state of depression; recommend services and the type of needed therapy.
- Psychiatric evaluation including a review of antipsychotic medications.
- · Acute assessments and treatment.
- Psychotherapy with the residents, with or without the family. This includes group therapy.

SeniorWorks has taken an integrated approach with a program that addresses the medical and behavioral problems facing the nursing homes population.



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**Dr. Richard Wike, O.D.**Consulting Optometrist



**Dr. Mary Martha Henry, Au.D**Consulting Audiologist



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