

ISDH Long Term Care
Newsletter Issue # 11-26
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What Happened on December 16, 1811?

What happened on December 16, 1811, at about 2:15 a.m. in the Mississippi River Valley?

Two hundred years ago, centered near present-day Blytheville, Arkansas, was the most recent New Madrid Earthquake. It was a series of three earthquakes of magnitude 7 - 8 with hundreds of aftershocks greater than magnitude 3. By March 15, 1812, an estimated 2,000 aftershocks had been felt.

The 1811 New Madrid earthquake was not a one-time event. Geologists have determined that similar earthquakes occurred around 1450, 900, and 300 A.D. A risk of similar earthquakes exists in the New Madrid Seismic Zone and threatens Alabama, Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Mississippi, Missouri, and Tennessee. Recent USGS projects place the likelihood of a magnitude 6 earthquake at about 20-25 percent over the next few decades and place the likelihood of a magnitude 7 or higher earthquake at 10 percent.

This two hundred year anniversary is a good reminder of the need to prepare for disasters and prevent them from becoming catastrophes.

Bed and Personnel Tracking System Update

On November 30, the Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) announced its Long Term Care Bed and Personnel Tracking System. The System is intended to provide information in an efficient manner to serve several purposes. Each nursing home is requested to log in once a month and update their bed census and personnel. Over 300 facilities have logged into the system and provided information. The ISDH appreciates your efforts.

The upcoming December 31 report is a very important reporting. It is important that all facilities confirm their information as of December 31. That information will be used to calculate state occupancy rates for the year as required by statute.

In the last newsletter, the ISDH posted several questions about the system. We have received more questions so the following are a few more questions and answers.

QUESTION: I was wondering if I need to include the two units that we have closed at the moment in the census numbers? They are not staffed at this time.

ANSWER: If the beds on those units are licensed, they need to be included in your reporting. The total number of beds in all categories must equal your total number of licensed beds.

QUESTION: Do we need to submit the Bed and Personnel Tracking form to the ISDH or can the ISDH access the form once we have "confirmed" the information?

ANSWER: The first time you access the LTC Bed and Personnel Tracking System, you will need to enter all your bed numbers and all the information on your personnel. Once that is confirmed/submitted, the information will be in the ISDH database. Thereafter, you will merely need to go in, make any updates, and confirm it. "Submit" and "confirm" have the same function.

QUESTION: Pertaining to Attending Physicians' email addresses, these are independent doctors who would have their own email addresses and we do not have access to that information. Suggestions beyond using a generic facility address?

ANSWER: Although we know this is time consuming and a burden on facilities, it would be helpful if attending physicians/primary care physicians, or their offices, could be contacted and a business email address obtained and then entered into the tracking system. This will help facilitate the collaborative efforts of the ISDH and the Indiana Medical Directors Association to reach out and offer support, resources and education to the physicians who oversee the care of residents in our facilities.

QUESTION: We are a certified MCR/MCD SNF facility. We operate at less than capacity because we choose to have some rooms as private. Do I count the unoccupied beds in the "private" rooms as available beds?

ANSWER: Yes. The total bed count must equal the number of beds that are licensed, regardless of whether or not the beds are set up and actively in use.

QUESTION: Can you give me clarification on why we are being asked to complete the LTC Bed and Personnel Tracking System forms?

ANSWER: The ISDH Advisory Letter discussed the purposes of the system. Please see ISDH LTC Newsletter 11-24 at the following link: <http://www.in.gov/isdh/files/ltcnews1124.pdf>

QUESTION: The field for the license number requires a 10-digit number. Some license numbers have a letter and some numbers are only 8 digits. What should we do?

ANSWER: Our error. We are working on adjusting the field to accept letters and numbers that are less than 10 digits. In the meantime, however, the license number is not a mandatory field so you are not required to provide the license number if it presents a problem for you.

QIS Update

The ISDH began Quality Indicator Survey (QIS) training in January 2011. In 2011 the ISDH completed QIS training for one team from each survey area so now have about one-third of our long term care surveyors QIS trained. Each training class completes one week of classroom training, one mock survey, and two surveys of record.

The pace of QIS training picks up in 2012. Our goal is to be close to completing QIS training by the end of 2012. The next training class begins on January 9 with the following surveyors from Survey Area 3:

Tammy Alley
Toni Maley
Donna Smith
Linn Mackey
Shelley Reed
DeAnn Mankell

This will conclude the QIS training for existing surveyors in Area 3. Upon completion of this training, the survey area will be fully QIS so future area 3 surveys will be QIS surveys. In planning future training

classes, the ISDH tentatively plans to complete QIS training by area.

In addition to the above surveyors, the ISDH will be providing QIS training at our January training class for a few additional surveyors. A new surveyor for the Jasper team in Area 5, Dorothy Watts, is included in the class. Gina Berkshire, Program Director for Education and Training, will also participate in the January training.

Courtney Hamilton from Survey Area 4C will be trained to become a CMS Certified QIS Trainer during the January session.



That is all for today. Have a wonderful week as we welcome winter.

Terry Whitson
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