

Better Care
Starts Here

SERVICE UPDATES
Discover services for better resident care

REGULATORY NEWS
Keeping you up-to-date with the latest regulatory news

SUCCESS STORIES
Showcasing the impact of our services and collaboration

MAY 2023 | Q2

QUARTERLY

CUSTOMER NEWSLETTER



 **Powerback**
Rehabilitation®

 **Powerback**
Rehabilitation *to you*

 **Powerback**
Respiratory

Teams nationwide celebrated Occupational Therapy Month in April

During April's Occupational Therapy Month, teams nationwide celebrated the undeniable impact of Occupational Therapy in enabling people of all ages to participate in daily living or live better with injury, illness, or disability. Teams held special events, decorated gym spaces, and held OT-specific education events.

Every day, our occupational therapy practitioners help older adults maintain or rebuild their independence and participate in the everyday activities that are most important to them.



We are Great Place to Work™ certified!

In March, Great Place to Work Institute and its senior care partner, Activated Insights, honored Powerback with certification as a Great Place to Work based on an organization-wide survey of 60 elements of team members' experience on the job.

Carl Shrom, Powerback CEO, said, "We're proud to be recognized as a great workplace, a place where everyone trusts and respects each other and has a shared commitment to individual and company success!"

Building a strong foundation with Speech Therapy - Celebrating Better Hearing & Speech Month in May

May marks an annual monthlong celebration honoring the positive impact of speech therapy. Each May, Powerback Rehabilitation celebrates Better Hearing & Speech Month (BHSM) to raise awareness about communication and swallowing disorders and the fields of speech-language pathology and audiology. Left untreated, these disorders can negatively impact a person's social life, career, functional independence, and overall quality of life.

Every day, our speech-language pathologists (SLPs) strive to help address swallowing difficulties or re-establish successful communication with patients and residents with severe and/or chronic health challenges.

Additionally, Powerback Rehabilitation offers many specialty programs designed to support your residents and patients with:

- Aphasia
- Dementia
- Dysphagia
- Motor Speech Impairments

- Traumatic Brain Injury
- Vocal Impairment
- Parkinson's Disease
- Head and/or Neck Cancer
- Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC)
- Hearing Loss
- And so much more!



Powerback offers Cognitive Wellness services

Did you know? Powerback offers comprehensive cognitive wellness services to assist your residents and staff at all stages.

- Age In Motion® program resources to promote overall wellness to support brain fitness
- Cognitive Wellness and Prevention resources to promote brain fitness in all interactions
- Industry-leading assessment tools (such as the Brief Cognitive Assessment Tool and associated resources) that help identify and address varying

levels of cognitive decline

- Individualized 1:1 therapy for education and training on cognitive strategies
- Targeted staff in-service options for supporting individuals with dementia, understanding dementia's impact on fall safety, communication, etc.
- Facility-wide education programming through The Compass Program

Connect with your Director of Rehab for more information.

► Live Webinar



May 25, 2023 at 1:00 pm ET

Cognitive Wellness: A Critical Part of Comprehensive Resident Care

Presented by Powerback & Alzheimer's Association

REGISTER FOR FREE

Powerback is participating in the The Longest Day fundraising campaign for the Alzheimer's Association

Our mission is to improve lives by empowering others to achieve their full potential. Participating in The Longest Day campaign allows our organization to commit collectively to a cause that hits home to many of our patients and employees.

More than 6.5 million Americans age 65 and older have Alzheimer's. As one of the largest rehabilitation organizations in the country serving the older adult population, our teams see firsthand how this disease emotionally impacts those we serve, their families, and our team members. Historically, our employees have contributed to

The Longest Day in many ways.

In 2023, we've solidified our commitment to encourage our staff to participate in any Longest Day activity to support the mission. This year, our initial fundraising goal is \$50,000.

We strive to #ENDALZ. We invite you to join us by participating in The Longest Day® to raise funds and awareness for the care, support, and research efforts of the Alzheimer's Association®. Individual, corporate, and community donations are essential in improving the lives of people with

Alzheimer's, their families, and their caregivers.



Join us in the fight to #ENDALZ

bit.ly/PowerbackRehab-TLD1

THE LONGEST DAY
ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION

Powerback



Find us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/PowerbackRehab/>

• www.PowerbackRehab.com

Page 3

Freddy's Story: Renewed hope through Respiratory Therapy

In one of our Alabama-based partner centers, Freddy is thankful for the renewed hope and independence he has gained through Respiratory Therapy.

Due to an upper esophageal carcinoma, Freddy previously spent several months in a local hospital receiving treatment and, ultimately, a tracheostomy.

Freddy had participated in therapy since his admission to the center, and had a wonderful rehabilitation team looking out for him. During an assessment, Powerback Respiratory Therapist, David Bocka, detected a change in condition. Immediately David started working with the nursing staff and Freddy's physician; unfortunately, the cancer returned.

Freddy returned to the hospital for a monthlong stay to begin chemo and radiation treatments to shrink the tumor. Once back at the center, Freddy began working with both David and another Powerback Respiratory Therapist, Angela Campbell, to strengthen and improve his respiratory endurance.

While he will always need his tracheostomy tube, Freddy can now vocalize with a speaking valve. He enjoys participating in community activities and enjoying the fresh air outdoors.

Through the expert care and compassion of our therapists, Freddy has regained independence and improved his quality of life.

"Despite my terminal condition," said Freddy, "I now have hope."



Above: Freddy, patient

Below: David Bocka RCP,RRT and Angela Campbell RCP, RRT



Krista's Story: Active Living with Powerback Rehabilitation To You

Krista was a mom of two young kids, a wife, a middle school teacher, and an active yoga enthusiast. However, when Powerback Rehabilitation To You evaluated her following an illness and hospitalization, Krista was frail, shaky, and unsteady; she could not independently perform daily tasks, care for her daughter, drive, or move safely within her home. Her most significant barrier was the physical and mental fatigue and the stress that limited her from returning to work.

Krista progressed with each session through client-centered therapy and the consistent dedication of her Powerback Rehabilitation To You therapist, Sue Krawczyk. As a result, Krista remained motivated and diligent in completing her rehab sessions, which she believes is why she could finally return to work. Sue and Krista even went to the middle school for work preparedness during one of Krista's last sessions. Progressing from a few steps at home to navigating the school grounds with good balance allowed Krista to feel

comfortable returning to work. Sue made recommendations and some work modifications to promote a triumphant return. Krista's drive and desire to regain her life have also helped her return to attending yoga classes for continued core stability and overall wellness.



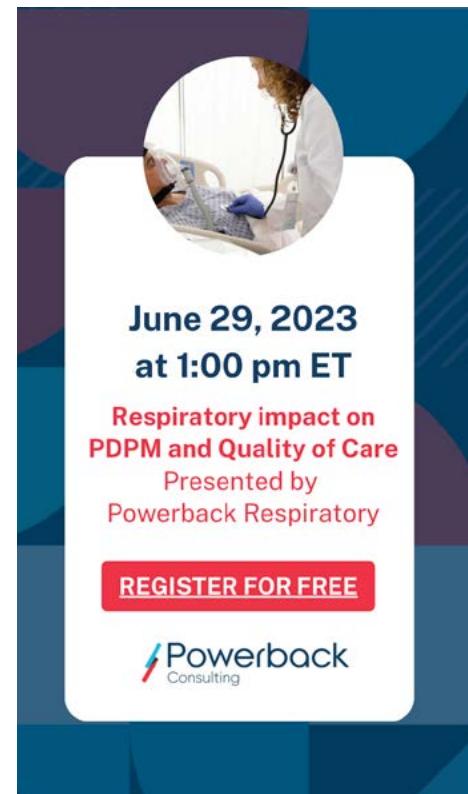
Above: Krista, patient, and Susan Krawczyk, RPT

Access to Therapy Telehealth Services After the Public Health Emergency Expires

Providers and rehabilitation professionals are calling on the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to provide clarification of beneficiary access to physical and occupational therapy and speech-language pathology services via telehealth when furnished by institutional providers upon the expiration of the COVID-19 public health emergency (PHE) on May 11th.

Although Section 4113 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023 (P.L. 117- 328) directed CMS to extend the

beneficiary access to therapy services furnished via telehealth services initiated during the PHE through the end of 2024, CMS has not provided specific guidance to ensure that beneficiaries will continue to have access to these services when furnished by an institutional provider billing Medicare B such as a skilled nursing facility, home health agency or outpatient rehabilitation facility. CMS stated they would provide a FAQ to clarify this issue and are conducting a legal review. However, they offered no timetable as to when this legal review will be complete.



CMS Releases Proposed Skilled Nursing Facility Prospective Payment System (SNF PPS) for fiscal year (FY) 2024

On April 4, 2023, the CMS issued a proposed rule that would update Medicare payment policies and rates for skilled nursing facilities under the Skilled Nursing Facility Prospective Payment System (SNF PPS) for fiscal year (FY) 2024.

In addition, the proposed rule includes proposals for the SNF Quality Reporting Program (QRP) and the SNF Value-Based Purchasing (VBP) Program for FY 2024 and future years.

Finally, this proposed rule would eliminate the requirement for

facilities to waive their right to a hearing in writing actively and instead treat the failure to submit a timely hearing request as a constructive waiver. Therefore, CMS is publishing this proposed rule consistent with the legal requirements to update Medicare payment policies for SNFs annually.

Click [HERE](#) for the fact sheet discussing the significant provisions of the proposed rule. These actions support the Administration's plan to improve

the safety and quality of care in nursing homes. In addition, CMS remains committed to proposing minimum staffing standards for nursing facilities later this spring.

To read the proposed rule or submit comments, click [HERE](#). The comment period ends on June 5, 2023.



CMS Posts Draft MDS 3.0 RAI Manual Version 1.18.11 and Announces Training Program

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has posted the draft [Minimum Data Set 3.0 \(MDS 3.0\) Resident Assessment Instrument \(RAI\) User's Manual Version 1.18.11](#).

The MDS 3.0 RAI User's Manual v1.18.11 will take effect on October 1, 2023. CMS notes that this version of the RAI contains "substantial revisions related to the Improving Medicare Post-Acute Care Transformation Act of 2014 (IMPACT Act), which requires that standardized assessment items be collected across post-acute care (PAC) settings." In addition, CMS has updated the language in the manual to be gender-neutral. CMS has clarified guidance and examples in numerous chapters and appendices to reflect current regulations and best practices.

On May 15, 2023, CMS announced they are offering a virtual training program that

consists of 2 parts:

PART 1: LEARN

Part 1 consists of pre-recorded training webinars that will provide foundational knowledge to assist in learning the new and/or revised items and associated guidance. In addition, a supplemental Case Study is available to give providers additional practice in coding the new and/or modified items. These videos will be on [CMS YouTube](#) and must be viewed in advance of the Part 2 live event.

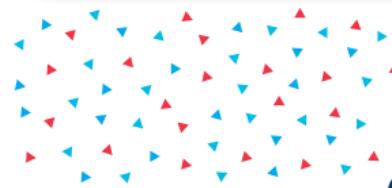
PART 2: PRACTICE

Part 2 includes the live, virtual workshop sessions that provide practice coding scenarios on select data elements covered in the Part 1 training webinars. These live sessions will occur on June 21, 2023 between 12:30 p.m. and 5 p.m. ET. Registration is open and can be completed online through [Zoom](#).

Additional training resources are located within a ZIP file in the Downloads section of the [SNF Quality Reporting Program \(QRP\) Training page](#). These resources include an acronym list, Action Plan worksheet, Case Study documents, resource guide, and PDF versions of the training webinars.

CMS underscores that it will not issue replacement pages for v1.18.11 due to the scope of the revisions and recommends "those wishing to continue using a physical copy of the manual are encouraged to print the new version." Go to the downloads section of CMS' [MDS 3.0 RAI Manual webpage](#) to retrieve the draft MDS 3.0 RAI User's Manual v1.18.11.

Powerback continues to stay abreast of all updates released by CMS and will provide continuous communication with leadership and staff. In addition, we are addressing these substantial revisions through focused education on approaches to care, modification of documentation, and patient advocacy to continue "to improve the lives we touch," as per our mission.



 **Powerback**

WE'RE CELEBRATING

Great Place to Work Certified

PHYSICAL THERAPY | OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY | SPEECH THERAPY | RESPIRATORY THERAPY | WELLNESS SERVICES



Find us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/PowerbackRehab/>

• www.PowerbackRehab.com

Page 6