



THE CORRIDOR GROUP, INC.

CHEX e-Letter

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 5

JANUARY 16, 2007

Welcome to a New Year!

I hope you all had a wonderful holiday season! The first quarter of the new year is always a busy time for CHEX. We are updating and reformatting most of the current content and we will be adding new courses over the next few months. Be expecting a different and improved CHEX look and feel!

TCG has recently updated our web site. Please take time to examine the additions to our site including the merging of the CHEX and Media Divisions into a single division called **Educational Products**. We have several new product course offerings including the Hospice QuickFlips®, Home Health and Hospice Nuts & Bolts® and a web-based Management Education series. Call us to get more information or visit our web site <http://www.corridorgroup.com>.

We have a great new tool on our web site, **The CHEX Training Calculator**. It demonstrates the financial impact CHEX e-learning makes to an organization's bottom line. You can insert the number of learners, pay rate and average billing rate to calculate your agency's savings by using CHEX.

Stay warm and safe!

Debbie Scholl, RN, BC, MSM
Managing Director of CHEX
913-362-0600
dscholl@corridorgroup.com

Check Out Our New Look!

We released on January 15th changes to our CHEX courses. New formatting will make navigation in the courses more consistent and the courses will include references and author/reviewer information.

Additional changes will be made over the next few weeks. For your information, the *Latex Allergy* course will be removed and two new courses, *Hand Hygiene* and *Hospice 101*, will be introduced. The *Patient Safety* course will undergo major changes. *Introduction to Home Care* and *Hospice Regulations*, and *Common Challenges for Home Care Providers* will be updated and additional information will be included.

Have You Used Registration by Proxy Today?

CHEX offers its clients many functional tools in an effort to make e-learning effortless and convenient. One of the many tools accessible is *Registration by Proxy*. This tool enables Supervisors to register their Learners for courses they deem mandatory.

The courses selected are posted on the individual Learners' *To Do Lists*. Further information and detailed instructions for *Registration by Proxy* is located in the CHEX Supervisor Guide.

Welcome New Clients!!!

- *Compassionate Home Care*
- *Country Meadows Retirement Communities*
- *Guardian Angel Home Care*
- *Personal Home Care Services, Inc.*
- *Serenity Palliative Care and Hospice*

Scheduled CHEX Black-Out Dates

We will perform maintenance on the site one Sunday a month from 8AM to 6PM.

- February 4
- March 4
- April 1
- May 6
- June 3
- July 1
- August 5
- September 9
- October 7
- November 4
- December 2

Stay Safe in Cold Weather!

"Older adults can lose body heat faster than when they were young. A big chill can turn into a dangerous problem before an older person even knows what's happening," states *Stay Safe in Cold Weather!*. According to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, about 600 people in the United States die from hypothermia every year, and half of them are age 65 or older.

Home health agencies and hospices have a new educational tool to share with their patients. The Department of Health & Human Services has released a booklet that provides guidelines for older adults on how to avoid the dangerous condition of hypothermia. This free 12-page publication, *Stay Safe in Cold Weather!*, is now available from the National Institute on Aging (NIA).

"Older adults can lose body heat faster than when they were young, and some health problems and medicines can make it harder for them to stay warm," Richard J. Hodes, NIA Director, stated. "This booklet describes hypothermia and offers simple steps seniors can take to lower their risk of this sometimes life-threatening health concern."

To view or print the booklet, visit:

<http://www.nia.nih.gov/HealthInformation/Publication/staysafe>

Q&A

How do I access the CHEX Cheat Sheet, Supervisor Guide and Learner Guide?

The CHEX Cheat Sheet, Supervisor Guide and Learner Guide can be found at <http://support.corridorgroup.com>. To download these documents, use CHEXLEARNER for the user name and GUIDE as the password.

What is the CHEX Cheat Sheet?

This is a handy two-page reference guide to the CHEX system. It explains how to log in, take courses and complete tests. The CHEX Cheat Sheet also explains the links displayed on the Learner Homepage. It would be helpful to supply all of your CHEX students with this useful tool.

If you have CHEX questions, email them to info@corridorgroup.com or call 913-362-0600.



Opioids Do Not Hasten Death

Study Conducted by National Hospice Outcomes Project (NHOP)

Although pain is highly prevalent in populations with advanced illness and the need for aggressive opioid therapy is widely accepted, undertreatment is common. The critical balance between the need to reduce suffering and the potential to do harm has been a major point of discussion.

The National Hospice Outcomes Project (NHOP), a survey of patients admitted to hospice programs, collected extensive data pertaining to clinical outcomes during end-of-life care. The collected data was analyzed to explore the relationship between opioid use and survival. The study examined 725 hospice patients who were receiving opioids and had at least one change in dose prior to death.

Opioid dosing explained little of the difference in survival time among these patients. The study suggested that the timing of death among patients with advanced illness involves a complex combination of variables and that effective opioid use actually poses little risk of hastened death. "Most clinicians understand the value of using opioids to relieve suffering at the end of life...This study reassures clinicians that their effective use of opioids in the seriously ill will not hasten death and will lead to better quality care. We all want to be kept comfortable and pain free at the end of our lives," said Stephen Connor, co-author of the study.

The Corridor Group, Inc.

Your Single Source of Contact

6405 Metcalf Avenue, Suite 108
Overland Park, KS 66202

Phone: 913-362-0600
Fax: 913-362-5378
Email: info@corridorgroup.com
<http://www.corridorgroup.com>

“Do the right thing...right”



In the News...

On October 7, 2006, thousands of people around the world staged events to raise awareness for hospice and palliative care services in observance of World Hospice and Palliative Care Day. **Access to Care for All**, was a reminder that millions of people who desperately need care at the end of life are not getting it.

Recent studies have drawn the conclusion that men’s contributions to caregiving has been underestimated. A recent Los Angeles Times article stated men make up more than 40% of the 30 million Americans caring for an ill family member. Also, 52% of caregivers who have a full-time job are male.

Quotes

Only those who avoid love can avoid grief. The point is to learn from grief and remain vulnerable to love.

~John Brantner

The only way to keep your health is to eat what you don't want, drink what you don't like, and do what you'd rather not.

~Mark Twain

Dare to reach out your hand into the darkness, to pull another hand into the light.

~Norman B. Rice

Nurses are angels in comfortable shoes.

~Author Unknown

THE NEW ENHANCED SURVEY TOOLKIT FOR HOME HEALTH AND HOSPICE

The NEW Enhanced Survey Toolkit is a simple, practical guide to prepare you for survey success. This toolkit provides resources related to federal home care and hospice surveys, gives guidance on how to prepare for a survey and more! Our toolkit also includes four key audit tools to help you improve compliance and prepare you for survey.

All CHEX subscribers receive 15% off the regular price through March 31, 2007



The Corridor Group is a visionary leader for consulting and education for the home care and hospice industries. We are problem solvers and innovators who, through collaboration with our clients and one another, deliver results!