

**NOTE TO READERS:**

All underlined text in the LTC E-Newsletter is a hyperlink to a website or email address related to the item you are reading.

To access these links, put your mouse cursor over the underlined text and click on it with your left mouse button. If that does not work, you can click on it with your right mouse button and choose "Open Hyperlink" in the menu that will open on your screen.

Long Term Care  
Community Coalition  
(LTCCC)  
242 West 30<sup>th</sup> Street, Ste 306  
New York, NY 10001

Phone:  
(212) 385-0355

E-mail:  
[Send us an e-mail](#)

We're on the Web:

[www.ltccc.org](http://www.ltccc.org)  
Our main website, with  
access to all of our issues,  
policy briefs and research.

[www.assisted-living411.org](http://www.assisted-living411.org)  
For information on assisted  
living, including consumer  
issues and policies.

[www.nursinghome411.org](http://www.nursinghome411.org)  
For information on  
developments in nursing  
home care, regulation and  
policy issues.

**LTC NEWS FLASH**

**Older Patients More Satisfied With Care When Accompanied On Medical Visits**

According to a new study from Johns Hopkins, 38% of Medicare beneficiaries are accompanied to routine medical visits. These accompanied beneficiaries tended to be older, sicker and less educated but more satisfied with their health care provider compared to unaccompanied patients. The study is published in the July 14 edition of *Archives of Internal Medicine*. [<http://archinte.ama-assn.org/cgi/content/short/168/13/1409>]

**Most Americans Want Health Care System Overhaul, Survey Finds**

A new survey of over 1000 U.S. adults indicates that 82 percent of Americans think the nation's health care system needs a fundamental change or a complete overhaul. According to the survey, "Many adults experience difficulties accessing care and poor care coordination....In addition, the survey found that one of three adults has experienced inefficient or unnecessary care in the past two years. Adults want their health care to be more patient-centered and integrated, and see an important role for information technology and teamwork in improving care. Reflecting these shared concerns, there is strong support for the next president to address health care quality, coverage, and costs." [<http://www.commonwealthfund.org>]

**Fire Safety Sprinklers Mandated for All Nursing Homes**

The federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has issued a ruling that requires every nursing home in the United States to install a sprinkler system within five years. Prior to this ruling, nursing homes only had to install a sprinkler system if they were newly built or undergoing a major renovation. [<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/08/25/AR2008082502366.html>]

**Medicare Website Frustrates Most Seniors**

According to a report from the University of Miami, a majority of seniors who visit the federal Medicare information website find getting the information they need to be a frustrating experience. The website is "somewhat difficult for people to use," said lead researcher Sara J. Czaja, co-director of the Center on Aging at the university's Miller School of Medicine. "They find it confusing and overly complex."

Participants in the study found the Medicare site difficult to navigate

*LTCCC is a coalition of over two dozen organizations that works to protect the rights and welfare of long term care consumers in all settings, including nursing homes, assisted living facilities and managed long term care, by strengthening regulation, surveillance and enforcement.*

## LTCCC Links

[View the latest enforcement actions against nursing homes in New York State](#)

[Read the latest edition of LTCCC's Newsletter](#)

*If the above links do not work (or if you are reading a print out of this newsletter) you can find these documents on our homepage, [www.ltccc.org](http://www.ltccc.org).*

*LTCCC members receive hard copies of all our written materials and provide vital support for our work – [PLEASE JOIN NOW!](#)*

from page to page, and hard to get the information they needed, Czaja said. Moreover, some of the information was confusing, and some of the language was too complex, she added. "When E-health tools are designed, designers really have to think about a broad and inclusive group of users and what their needs and abilities are," she said. [[http://www.wtvm.com/Global/story.asp?S=8867365&nav=menu91\\_10\\_2\\_6](http://www.wtvm.com/Global/story.asp?S=8867365&nav=menu91_10_2_6) ]

## SPOTLIGHT ON ADVOCACY

Advocacy is one of the most important things we do at the Coalition. It is also something that **you** can do. **You can make a difference by speaking out now!**

### **Featured Action: [Tell Your Nursing Home Story!](#)**

The Coalition collects stories about individual experiences with nursing homes and uses them to inform policy makers and the public about the impact of low staffing on real people. YOU can help us make a difference by telling your story through the link above. This can be done anonymously or you can send us your name and even a picture if you like. [<http://www.ltccc.org/do> ]

## FYI – FOR YOUR INFORMATION

### **Website of Interest: [Healthcare 411: News From AHRQ](#)**

The federal Agency for Healthcare Research & Quality (AHRQ) hosts this website dedicated to providing news and information to consumer and providers.

The searchable database contains both written articles and podcasts (recorded audio programs) on a wide range of issues. Current offerings include "How to Choose a Doctor," "Understanding Your Diagnosis and Treatment Plan" and "Simple Steps Can Reduce Health Care-Associated Infections."

[<http://healthcare411.ahrq.gov/default.aspx> ]

### **[SIGN-UP FOR THE LTC E-NEWSLETTER \(OR UNSUBSCRIBE!\)](#)**