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#### Survey says: Grim outlook exists for CNAs

Posted on: 5.27.2009 1:00:05 PM Posted by **Jonathan Rosenfeld, LTC Lawyer**

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There is a general assumption that the more work you put into your career, the more opportunities you will have for advancement. That is unless you are a certified nursing assistant (CNA) at a nursing home, according to a new study published in *The Gerontologist* that paints a relatively bleak work future for CNAs working in nursing homes today. (Editor's note: Read the reaction from Bruce Yarwood, president and CEO of the American Health Care Association, on this particular study by clicking [here](#).)

The National Nursing Assistant Survey sampled 3,017 CNAs working in nursing homes. CNAs were surveyed in: recruitment, education, training and licensure, job history, family life, management and supervision, client relations, organizational commitment, job satisfaction, workplace environment, and work related injuries.

The survey outcomes leave me wondering: Why would anyone want to be a CNA in a nursing home?

Among the survey results:

- One in three CNAs receives some form of public assistance
- Over 50% of the CNA's suffered at least one work-place injury over the course of the last year
- Work-related injuries required 25% of the nursing to take time off from work
- Forty-two percent of the CNAs are not participating in their employers sponsored insurance plan due to the fact they could not afford to participate
- Experience means nothing—well almost—in terms of pay. CNAs with 10 years or more in job experience earn just \$2.00 more per hour than their counterparts who just began working in the industry

More experienced CNAs will undoubtedly leave their current positions until the industry chooses to put a premium on improving working conditions for this under-paid and injury-prone group. Consequently, too few highly skilled CNAs will remain to care for the growing nursing home population.

**Jonathan Rosenfeld is a lawyer who represents people injured in nursing homes and long-term care facilities. Visit his personal blog at [www.nursinghomesabuseblog.com](http://www.nursinghomesabuseblog.com).**

#### Comments:

Tuesday, June 02, 2009 9:04:50 PM by **Former Activity Director**

More residents paying full price with LTC insurance could improve the bottom line for nursing homes, and hopefully, lead to decent working conditions. Can I assume everyone on this post is aware the reimbursement of Medicaid is lower than the out of pocket expenditure for care? Having more full pay clients may be easier than hoping for higher revenues from the government at this point. Also, what about doubling the issue when the Boomers arrive soon?

#### Poll Question:

**Have you seen a positive change in wound care practices during your career?**

- Yes
- No

Your Comments:

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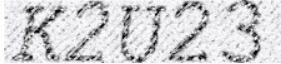
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