The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NC DHHS) participated in a national Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) grant program to implement a new automated background check management system (ABCMS). Beginning on December 17, 2018, the system will be available to all nursing home and home care providers.

The ABCMS was designed to improve the following processes:
- Required criminal background checks
- Health Care Personnel, Nurse Aide I, Medication Aide and Geriatric Aide registry checks
- Other state and national registry checks

Below is more information that we hope you find helpful.

Who Did NC DHHS Partner With to Make ABCMS Available in North Carolina?

CMS paid to develop a criminal background check system that can be used by any state. The vendor is Innovative Architects (IA), based in Atlanta, GA. NC DHHS partnered with IA and the NC State Bureau of Investigation (SBI) to configure the system for use in North Carolina.

What is the Cost or Associated Fees for Using the ABCMS?

There is no cost for using ABCMS. However, providers or applicants, depending upon your local rule, are required to pay the cost of the criminal background check currently charged by the SBI.

What are the Benefits of Using the ABCMS?

- Transforms the current paper-based process into an electronic process.
- Improves the timeliness of processing background checks and fingerprint checks.
- "One stop" process for completing the following required registry checks:
    - Health Care Personnel
    - Nurse Aide I
    - Medication Aide
    - Geriatric Aide
- Provides links to other registries, including out-of-state.
- If there is a finding discovered in the Nurse Aide I registry or the Health Care Personnel registry, then the ABCMS does not automatically perform a criminal background check.
- Enables providers to have a current roster of applicants and employees along with status updates on current background checks and automatic registry rechecks every thirty days.
- Automatically searches the database to determine if an applicant is already in the system from another provider location.

Are Providers Required to Use ABCMS?

Providers are not required to use the ABCMS. However, our hope is that the system provides value with regard to time and efficiency when completing the required background checks.

Is Training Available for the ABCMS?

User manuals and videos have been prepared to support the orientation to the ABCMS. These materials can be found on the NC Division of Health Service Regulation (DHSR) website at https://www2.ncdhhs.gov/dhsr/abcms/ and on the ABCMS Home Page.

What is the First Step to be Completed When Using the ABCMS?

You must have a signed access agreement with the NC SBI before you can use the ABCMS. If you do not have an access agreement, please contact the NC SBI at 919-582-8631 or by email at AIUhelp@NCSBI.gov.

How Do I Obtain an ABCMS User Account?

- You can obtain an ABCMS user name and password by contacting the ABCMS Help Desk at 678-387-5466 or by email at ABCMSSupport@InnovativeArchitects.com
- The following information is required when establishing an ABCMS user account:
    - Name and contact information for the person(s) who will be the ABCMS Administrator for the provider.
    - Facility ID issued by NC DHSR.
    - Name of facility matching the Facility ID.
    - Facility license number issued by NC DHSR.
    - Non-criminal access agreement number issued by the NC SBI.

Where Can I Access the ABCMS Site?

You can access the ABCMS site on the NC DHSR Home Page at https://www2.ncdhhs.gov/dhsr/index.html or at https://www2.ncdhhs.gov/dhsr/abcms/