



Highlighting ACE Updates, Best Practices, Resources, Tools, and Upcoming Events

Consumers Now Have Additional Quality Measures to Compare Nursing Homes

Nursing Home Compare

<https://www.medicare.gov/nursinghomecompare/search.html>

In ACE Learning Session III, we looked at *Medicare's* website, *Nursing Home Compare*, to find out what consumers see when searching for a nursing home. On the website, consumers can compare the star ratings and quality measures of the long-term care facilities in their area.

CMS has added six new quality measures: two for long-term stays and four for short-term stays. In addition to reviewing long-term care Medicare claims to gather data, CMS will reach into Medicare claims by hospitals to measure rehospitalizations, emergency room visits, and community discharges among nursing home residents.

In addition to antipsychotic medication usage which is now tracked for short and long-stay residents, antianxiety and hypnotic medication use will be monitored for long-stay residents. With a new focus on maintaining and improving function, CMS has added a measure for functionality in short and long-stay residents as well. Although effective April 27, 2016, these new quality measures will be phased into the star ratings beginning July 2016.

New quality measures for long-stay residents

- Percentage of long-stay residents who received an antianxiety or hypnotic medication (MDS-based)

- Percentage of long-stay residents whose ability to move independently worsened (MDS-based)

New quality measures for short-stay residents

- Percentage of short-stay residents who were successfully discharged to the community (Medicare claims and MDS-based)
- Percentage of short-stay residents who have had an outpatient emergency department visit (Medicare claims and MDS-based)
- Percentage of short-stay residents who were rehospitalized after a nursing home admission (Medicare claims and MDS-based)
- Percentage of short-stay residents who made improvements in function (MDS-based)

What does this mean for your facility?

If you haven't already done so, carefully evaluate your quality measures, identify those that are troublesome, and use the QAPI process to make improvements.

Here's how CCME will help:

- Quarterly reports of composite scores and a separate run chart for each quality measure to review and track your progress over time
- A variety of tools and resources on the ACE website to help improve specific measures: <http://atlanticquality.org/initiatives/nursing-home-quality/nursing-home-quality-sc/>
- Technical assistance and answers to your questions! Submit questions to scace@thecarolinascenter.org.

The DHEC Conference is just in time for the new CMS initiative on antibiotic stewardship and CDI reduction!

You have been hearing about the new CMS initiative to reduce the incidence of CDI in nursing homes across the nation. Currently, there is not a reporting process in place to establish a baseline and accurately track rates of CDI in long-term care facilities. The numbers come from hospital and laboratory data only.

But, CDI is not a stand-alone issue. It encompasses accurate data collection, antibiotic stewardship, early recognition and intervention, and infection control and surveillance practices. More information will be coming soon on this new initiative, but in the meantime, please register for the DHEC Conference and have a look at this CDC news release showing CDI across the healthcare environment:

<http://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2015/p0225-clostridium-difficile.html>

Antimicrobial Stewardship Training – A Coordinated Approach
Wednesday, May 25, 2016

8:30 am – 4:45 pm
William L. Yates Conference Center
1000 Center Point Road
Columbia, SC 29210

Registration Deadline is May 18, 2016:

- No registration fee.
- Please register as soon as possible—seating is limited.
- Lunch and refreshments are provided.
- Continuing education credits are available for physicians, nurses, nursing home administrators, and pharmacists

PLEASE REGISTER HERE:

<http://members.scha.org/AsiCommon/Controls/Shared/FormsAuthentication/Login.aspx?LoginMessage=Your+session+has+timed+out.+Please+try+your+operation+again>

QAPI: Where are you in your quality journey?

Not Started | Just Starting | On Our Way | Almost There | Doing Great

Regardless of where you are, be sure to enter your QAPI Self-Assessment online if you have not done so already. It only takes a few minutes and it helps us assess our collective progress and meet CMS program guidelines. Your entry is confidential, so please make it a priority to complete your self-assessment today. Once is all that is necessary but you may also update it at any time.

Have your facility CMS number ready and enter here: <https://isweb.ipro.org/qapi/sc/>

Have questions, or need help entering? Let us help! Please e-mail us at scace@thecarolinascenter.org.

Looking for best practices...

Have you: Improved staff turnover rates? Successfully implemented INTERACT? Reduced readmission rates? Engaged staff using a whiteboard? Improved a quality measure?

Let's Hear Your Success Stories!! We want them all and we want to celebrate and share them with other ACE participants. Your success story provides encouragement and support to other facilities that face the same challenges, and your story might be the one to put them on the road to their own success.

We want to collect and share successes and ideas from across the state. We plan to post them on our website and may feature them on an upcoming webinar.

Please contact Marilee Mohr at scace@thecarolinascenter.org with your success story.

Watch for a flyer announcing our upcoming *Best Practice Lunch and Learn Webinar Series* in which we will be sharing some great successes!

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