



State of Louisiana

Louisiana Department of Health Office of the Secretary

September 23, 2017

RE: Nursing Home Quality Improvement

Dear Administrator:

The Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) is pleased to announce a partnership with the Louisiana Nursing Home Association (LNHA) in implementing a comprehensive project aimed at quality improvement in the nursing home program. This initiative will be twofold, in that we plan to both address measures identified through the CASPER MDS 3.0 Facility Level Quality Measure report on which Louisiana consistently ranks below the national average, while simultaneously working with LNHA and members of the industry to design data collection instruments that better identify and quantify the quality of care provided within nursing homes. We are aware that some of the existing national standards and indicators do not necessarily account for extenuating circumstances that may be unique to, or overrepresented within, your facility. This is why we'll not only identify areas of need based on current indicators which will continue to be reviewed and tracked by CMS and Health Standards, but we are also dedicated to developing tools for future use that will be more representative of specific and measurable quality indicators for the provision of nursing home services. LDH is aware that providers who take on higher acuity patients are artificially penalized in quality metrics, and we want to implement a plan that in no way discourages providers from taking these high need patients.

The first measure that we have identified that needs addressing is the percentage of long-stay high-risk residents with pressure ulcers. The percentage of Louisiana residents on this quality metric is high when compared to the rest of the nation. LDH and LNHA are collaborating with wound care experts to design and implement a comprehensive training program that will be made available to all nursing homes. This will include webinars posted on the LDH website as well as on-site trainings for certain facilities. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services has approved a grant to fund this project and supports this initiative fully.

Nursing Home Quality Improvement
September 22, 2016
Page 2

Randy Davidson, Director of the Rate and Audit Section, is overseeing this project and will be reaching out to each of you soon to schedule the webinar trainings for your staff and to seek your feedback on how we can improve this quality measure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Rebekah E. Gee'.

Rebekah E. Gee, MD, MPH
Secretary
Louisiana Department of Health

