

# RESIDENTS' RIGHTS: RETURNING TO THE COMMUNITY

## MDS 3.0: Section Q

**What is Section Q?** Section Q is the part of the Minimum Data Set (MDS) designed to explore meaningful opportunities for nursing facility residents to return to community settings. Emphasis is on an individual's participation in assessment and goal setting. The MDS 3.0 Section Q allows individuals to express interest in learning more about possibilities for living outside of the nursing facility.

**What is the responsibility of the nursing home facility?** The nursing home staff is required to ask questions regarding the resident's care. Staff must also ask residents if they want to speak with someone about the possibility of returning to the community. Residents have a right to information regarding the supports and services available to them in their chosen community setting. Providing this information does not mean the resident must leave the nursing home.

The staff should ask residents if they are interested in returning to the community on a regular basis. The goals and needs of each resident change over time, as do the available community resources and services.

**What must the nursing home do if a resident says "YES"?** The nursing home staff will contact a Local Contact Agency (LCA) to have someone either call or visit the interested resident to talk about their options.

The LCA's representative will address:

- Housing options, including home modification services
- Available services to assist with the resident's medical and personal needs
- Programs that may help to pay for such services (i.e. Medicaid, Medicare, private insurance)

If services and supports are available, the resident will then decide whether or not to start the necessary planning to leave the nursing home.

**REMEMBER: RESIDENTS CAN CHANGE THEIR MIND AT ANYTIME!!!**

*For Local Contact Agency (LCA):*

<http://www.dhh.la.gov/assets/docs/OAAS/publications/SectionQ/Reg-Office-Right-Fax.pdf>