

Office of Clinical Standards and Quality/Survey & Certification Group

Ref: S&C: 12-37-NH

DATE: June 22, 2012

TO: State Survey Agency Directors

FROM: Director
Survey and Certification Group

SUBJECT: Redesign Updates to the *Nursing Home Compare* Website

Memorandum Summary

- ***Nursing Home Compare:*** The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) will launch a re-designed *Nursing Home Compare* website on July 19, 2012.
- **New Information:** Website will add new MDS 3.0 quality measures, detailed inspection reports (CMS 2567s), nursing home ownership information, and additional staffing data.

The CMS will launch the re-designed *Nursing Home Compare* website on July 19, 2012. In designing the site, CMS adopted industry best practices for design and usability while incorporating a considerable amount of new information. The result of this effort will be increased transparency and web usability for consumers.

CMS launched *Nursing Home Compare* in 1998 as part of a number of initiatives to improve nursing home quality of care. Since that time, CMS has added information on staffing, quality measures, enforcement actions and complaints to the existing survey results. In 2008, CMS added the *Five Star Nursing Home Quality Ratings* to *Nursing Home Compare*. The ratings summarize the information on the site and allow consumers to more easily make meaningful distinctions between high- and low-performing nursing homes.

With the July 19, 2012 *Nursing Home Compare* website release, CMS is adding several new types of information:

- Quality measures based on MDS 3.0 data. The MDS 3.0 assessments will replace the MDS 2.0-based quality measures previously posted on *Nursing Home Compare*. In addition, CMS will post data on two measures of use of anti-psychotic medication use (short-stay incidence and long-stay prevalence).
- Detailed Inspection Reports (Form CMS-2567).
- Ownership information. CMS will post information on the legal business names of nursing homes.
- Information on Physical Therapist staffing levels. Physical Therapist hours per resident day will be reported.

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CMS will provide nursing homes with previews of their individual information 30 days before the release of the information on the website.

Effective Date: July 19, 2012. This policy should be communicated with all survey and certification staff, their managers and the State/Regional Office training coordinators within 30 days of this memorandum.

/s/

Thomas E. Hamilton

cc: Survey and Certification Regional Office Management