



A campaign to improve quality of life for residents & staff

Hello to All Advancing Excellence Campaign Followers!

The Campaign continues to move along and is working with its partners on several major initiatives.

- CMS is gearing up to implement QA/PI – a strengthened Quality Assurance and Performance Improvement Program in nursing homes that is mandated by the Affordable Care Act (Health Care Reform). New regulations are anticipated in 2012 or 2013. Nursing homes can get ready for QAPI by working on the Advancing Excellence Goals. Here's what you can do:
 - Review the Advancing Excellence goals.
 - Review your nursing home data relevant to the goals.
 - Choose a goal that is meaningful to your nursing home and its residents and select it on the AE website.
 - Using data that you collect, measure or benchmark where your nursing home currently stands.
 - Set a target or an aim that includes how much you want to improve and by when. Keep aims/targets reasonable and achievable!
 - Look at the management of care processes that are contributing to the status quo.
 - Decide which processes need to be changed to help you reach your target or aim.
 - Implement your proposed change or changes using the PDSA quality improvement method.
 - Use the AE tools and collect data on an ongoing basis to monitor performance.
 - If change is happening and you are happy with it, keep doing what you are doing!
 - If change is not happening, rethink what needs to be changed and make those changes.
 - When you have reached your target, keep monitoring to make sure that there is no slippage.
 - Choose another topic to improve and start all over again!
- The Quality Improvement Organizations (QIOs) start the 10th Scope of Work this summer. They will continue to work with LANEs and nursing homes to reduce pressure ulcers and restraints. They will also help nursing homes reduce falls, healthcare acquired conditions and infections. Later in their work, the QIOs will focus on reducing staff turnover and increasing use of consistent assignment. There is quite a bit of overlap in the QIO and Advancing Excellence Work. We look forward to combining our energies!
- We continue to encourage all nursing homes to strengthen internal quality improvement programs by using the Advancing Excellence tools. The tools are free, user-friendly and compatible with MDS 3.0. They were developed by a panel of experts and focus on the aspects of quality that nursing homes and residents care about the most. Using the tools and continuous monitoring of the data will help nursing homes monitor performance while the QIs and QMs are dark, as well as prepare for QAPI.

Follow us on Facebook for our adventures!

Thanks again for all you do –

Carol Benner
National Director