



Advancing Excellence Campaign Statement on OIG Report on Adverse Events in Nursing Homes

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WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Statement on OIG Report on adverse events in nursing homes

On Monday, March 3rd, the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) released a new report on adverse events in nursing homes (OEI- 06-11-00370). OIG evaluators reviewed the medical records of a random sample of 692 skilled nursing facility (SNF) patients with a LOS of less than 35 days. They found that compared to an incidence of 13.5% adverse events in hospital patients, 22% of SNF patients had at least one adverse event. Adverse events were defined as any harm to a patient as a result of medical care or care in a healthcare setting; these events do not always involve medical errors, negligence or poor quality care. The report may be found at <https://oig.hhs.gov/oei/reports/oei-06-11-00370.asp>.

Advancing Excellence in America's Nursing Homes Campaign (the Campaign) supports the OIG call to action to reduce adverse events and improve the safety culture in nursing homes. Building on recent work in hospitals by CMS and other agencies, as well as the National Patient Safety Foundation and professional associations, efforts to reduce harm should include raising awareness, increasing reporting and implementing efforts to prevent these events. *This report is a wake-up call – we must reduce adverse events and improve safety culture in nursing homes.*

The Campaign is a unique public-private partnership, a collaborative of over 30 organizations with over 9,000 participating nursing homes, 6,000 consumers and individual members, committed to making nursing homes better places to live, work and visit. The Campaign provides nationally-reviewed, evidence-based tools and resources on topics such as how to manage medications, how to prevent infections, how to reduce staff turnover, how to implement consistent assignment and others. Participating nursing homes identify quality/safety improvement goals, set targets and enter data that enables benchmarking on nine clinical and organizational goals. Every Campaign goal relates to one or more aspects of preventable adverse events. "The availability of a broad range of post-acute care resources in the public domain, as well as a robust website where nursing homes may enter and benchmark

data, makes Advancing Excellence the ideal organization to work with CMS and AHRQ,” said Beverley Laubert, Chair of the Campaign and State Long-Term Care Ombudsman. The Campaign focuses on enhancing the use of measurement in quality/safety initiatives and implementing safety culture standards to improve all aspects of care. For example, AE coordinates with state Local Area Networks for Excellence (LANES) and individual facilities on how to reduce unnecessary antipsychotic medications and optimally manage medications safely. The Campaign has partnered with the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) to develop and disseminate resources for preventing infections in nursing homes, one of the 3 areas identified in the report.

The Campaign is committed to working on solutions to reduce harm in post-acute care. The organization will work with government and non-government partners to achieve this shared goal. For more information, contact Executive Director Douglas Pace at dpace@aeltcc.org.

About Advancing Excellence: *The Advancing Excellence in America’s Nursing Homes Campaign is a coalition of long-term care providers, caregivers, medical and quality improvement experts, government agencies and consumers working to make Nursing Homes better places to live, work and visit. For more information, contact Adrienne Thomas at athomas@aeltcc.org.*

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