

HH Related Websites

MedQIC: www.medqic.org

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) developed this comprehensive online resource of quality improvement information for Medicare's National Quality Improvement Priority Topics. MedQIC is a place where healthcare professionals can find and share resources that others have used successfully, actions to take to implement strategies, and numerous support materials to assist with the work of transforming healthcare. It provides expertise and guidance to support the combined efforts of healthcare workers, institutions, improvement support organizations, purchasers, and regulators – as all are essential to achieve transformation. Improvement efforts may begin within any strategic area for any clinical setting or topic under the Medicare umbrella. Includes resources for all outcomes and other deliverable topics.

Access: Home Health agencies can access nearly all tools and resources without signing on. It may be necessary to enter name and other information for some presentations, web trainings or other special resources.

HH Compare: www.medicare.gov

A public website created by CMS so individuals can compare 12 different outcome rates from agency to agency in their area. This tool provides information on the quality of care provided to patients by home health agencies in a certain city, state, or the nation. Keep in mind:

- The list of home health agencies generated by your search criteria is based on the places where they have provided services in the past.
- The services that the agencies have available in these areas could change in the future. Contact the home health agency to find out if they still provide the same services in your area.
- Newly Medicare-certified home health agencies may not appear in *Home Health Compare* for one year.
- Only Medicare-certified home health agencies are required to submit information about home health agencies.
- Agencies that exclusively serve children, or private pay, or privately insured patients are not listed here.

Access: No ID or password required.

Medicare website: <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/HomeHealthQualityInits/>

Information related to the OASIS and the Home Health Quality Initiative can be accessed here.

Access: No ID or password required.

Wound, Ostomy and Continence Nurses Society: <http://www.wocn.org/>

The website contains some publications that must be purchased to be used. It also contains the WOCN guidelines related to the MO OASIS items, which can be downloaded for no charge and accessed through the “Library.”

Access: No ID or password required for the above information. Other information on the website may require you to sign in.

CDC National Immunization Program: <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines>

This website established by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention contains immunization information for the public, as well as, healthcare providers. Vaccine-preventable disease levels are at, or near, record lows. However, we cannot take high immunization coverage levels for granted. To continue to protect America's children and adults, we must obtain maximum immunization coverage in all

populations, establish effective partnerships, conduct reliable scientific research, implement immunization systems, and ensure vaccine safety.

Access: No ID or password required.

VNAA Clearinghouse for Chronic Conditions in Homecare: <http://www.chronicconditions.org>

The VNAA Chronic Care Clearinghouse is the first and only online resource of its kind, designed exclusively for homecare clinicians. The Clearinghouse provides homecare managers and clinicians with the most innovative chronic care "best practices" from Visiting Nurse Agencies across the country - quickly, easily and at no cost. The two topics currently available are Diabetes and Heart Failure.

Access: The general written information can be accessed without an ID or password. The presentations are currently available only to VNA organizations.

The John A. Hartford Institute for Geriatric Nursing: <http://www.hartfordign.org/>

This is the site of the "Try This" series, which is information for assessing older adults with cost-free web-based resources. The Hartford Institute for Geriatric Nursing seeks to shape the quality of healthcare older Americans receive by promoting the highest level of geriatric competence in all nurses. By raising the standards of nursing care, the Hartford Institute aims to ensure that people age with optimal function, comfort and dignity. The Hartford Institute identifies and develops best practices in nursing care of older adults and infuses these practices into the education of every nursing student and the work-environment of every practicing professional nurse. The Hartford Institute educates the public to expect best practice and encourages national leadership to establish best practice as the standard for geriatric nursing care.

Access: No ID or password required for most information on this site.

National Guideline Clearinghouse: <http://www.guideline.gov>

The National Guideline Clearinghouse (NGC) is a comprehensive database of evidence-based clinical practice guidelines and related documents. NGC is an initiative of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. NGC was originally created by AHRQ in partnership with the American Medical Association and America's Health Insurance Plans. The NGC mission is to provide physicians, nurses, and other health professionals, healthcare providers, health plans, integrated delivery systems, purchasers and others an accessible mechanism for obtaining objective, detailed information on clinical practice guidelines and to further their dissemination, implementation and use.

Access: No ID or password required.

National Institute on Aging: <http://www.nih.gov/>

The National Institutes of Health (NIH), a part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, is the primary Federal agency for conducting and supporting medical research. Helping to lead the way toward important medical discoveries that improve people's health and save lives, NIH scientists investigate ways to prevent disease as well as the causes, treatments, and even cures for common and rare diseases. Composed of 27 Institutes and Centers, the NIH provides leadership and financial support to researchers in every state and throughout the world.

The National Institute on Aging (NIA) leads a broad scientific effort to understand the nature of aging and to extend the healthy, active years of life. The NIA has now been designated the primary federal agency for Alzheimer's disease research.

Access: No ID or password required.

The OASIS Certificate and Competency Board: <http://www.oasiscertificate.org/index.cfm>

The OASIS Certificate and Competency Board, Inc. (OCCB) is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting greater reliability in OASIS data through consistent application of guidelines provided by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). The OCCB will facilitate this goal by offering a **voluntary certificate examination** which home care providers may take in order to demonstrate and establish their expertise and commitment to OASIS data accuracy. Candidates who successfully complete the examination will be awarded the **Certificate OASIS Specialist - Clinical (COS-C) designation**.

American Heart Association: <http://www.americanheart.org>

The American Heart Association and American Stroke Association have a wide range of practice tools and information resources to help you educate your patients and their families about their conditions, treatment and care.