

Nursing Home News

Kansas Nursing Home Quality Initiative

9th Statement of Work (SOW) for QIOs

QIO activities under the Patient Safety Theme will focus on six primary topics:

1. Reducing rates of healthcare-associated methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) infections;
2. Reducing rates of pressure ulcers in nursing homes and hospitals;
3. Reducing rates of use of physical restraints in nursing homes;
4. Improving inpatient surgical safety and heart failure treatment in hospitals;
5. Improving drug safety; and
6. Providing quality improvement technical assistance to nursing homes in need.

Opportunity for Quality Improvement

The requirements of the Patient Safety Theme, also known as the CMS National Patient Safety Initiative (NPSI), are designed to address areas of patient harm for which there is evidence of how to improve safety by improving healthcare processes and systems. The theme brings forward several components from the previous SOW (surgical care, heart failure, pressure ulcers and restraints in nursing homes, and drug safety), allowing QIOs to build on the progress they have made with providers over the past three years.

With the new SOW, however, the safety focus also pushes into new areas (MRSA, pressure ulcer prevention in hospitals, and QIO technical assistance for nursing homes in need), giving providers and QIOs the chance to broaden the scope of their patient safety-related improvement activities.

Governor's Conference

The Kansas Department on Aging will again offer a conference and networking opportunity for elders and professionals in the field of aging. This annual conference on May 7 and 8, 2008 focuses on ways to address not only the needs and issues facing Kansas elders, but also ways to enhance their lives so they might age successfully. The keynote speaker on May 8 will be Dr. William Thomas, founder of the Green Houses and an advocate for changing the way society views aging. Breakout sessions both days will include topics applicable for people living and working in adult care homes and the community. For more information and registration, please visit www.agingkansas.org/GovConf.

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It may be helpful to view your facility's publicly reported Quality Measure scores to see how your nursing home compares with others in your state and across the country. To view this information, please visit:

www.medicare.gov/NHCompare



***All links are active. Clicking on them will take internet-ready readers directly to the website mentioned.**

Nursing Celebrations!



National Nurses Week is May 6 -12, 2008. This is the time of year to honor the hardworking nurses in Kansas. KFMC would like to say thank you for your hard work and dedication!

National Nursing Home Week®, which is scheduled to begin on Mother's Day, May 11, and end on May 18, 2008, is a special week where residents, caregivers, families, staff and volunteers honor and celebrate nursing facility life. Take this time to reach out and let someone very special know that you are thinking about them now and throughout the year.

FREE Pressure Ulcer Training...

The Kansas Local Area Network for Excellence (LANE) members are currently developing workshops to be held June 3 in Topeka, June 4 in Hays, and June 5 in Wichita designed for nurses and CNA/CMA/RA staff. Nurses will receive the latest education from national, as well as, local speakers on pressure ulcer prevention/treatment and reducing physical restraint use. Step-by-step training on using the Advancing Excellence process frameworks for use in quality improvement efforts will also be covered. CNAs will participate in a general quality improvement session and a "train the trainer" educational session on pressure ulcers and reduction of use of restraints. [Click here](#) to download the registration brochure and watch for future information at www.kansasculturechangecoalition.org. Click on the quality measure link to access resources to help jumpstart your clinical improvement processes in [pressure ulcers](#) and [physical restraints](#).



National Nursing Assistant Celebration

Each day, more than 2.5 million direct care workers provide hands-on care to our nation's frail, elderly, or chronically challenged citizens in nursing homes and other long-term care settings. These important workers have various titles including Certified Nursing/Nurse Assistant (CNA), Care Assistant, Caregiver, In-Home Care Aide, Hospice Assistant, Care Assistant, Geriatric Aide/Assistant, Resident Assistant, Restorative Aide, Health Care Assistant, Palliative Care Assistant, and numerous other titles.

Nursing Assistants provide as much as 80-90 percent of the direct care received by residents and clients in long term care facilities. The 2008 National Nursing Assistants Week is June 12-19, 2008. Please take this time for special recognition of the hard-working CNAs in your building!

Just PUSH It!

The PUSH Tool was developed by the National Pressure Ulcer Advisory Panel (NPUAP) as a quick, reliable tool to monitor the change in pressure ulcer status over time. The tool is based on:

1. An analysis of research literature to identify the critical parameters commonly used to monitor pressure ulcer healing,
2. A statistical analysis (i.e. principal component analysis) of existing research data bases on pressure ulcer monitoring, and
3. A national retrospective validation study.

This tool helps nursing staff to document and categorize pressure ulcer healing. There are sub-scales of healing that roll up into an overall or total score. A comparison of total scores measured over time provides an indication of improvement or deterioration in pressure ulcer healing. To access the PUSH Tool from the MedQIC website, please [click here](#).

For more information, please contact a member of the KFMC Nursing Home Team:

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