



SNF-LTC Open Door Forum- October 15, 2009

1) **H1N1 Update-** Useful websites for providers

www.CDC.gov

-this site offers general information regarding the flu and includes information on how and where to obtain the vaccine and supplies

www.cms.hhs.gov/H1N1

-this site has a download section that offers billing guidance, various fact sheets and emergency questions and answers.

2) **Advancing Excellence for American Nursing Homes Campaign-**conducted through the office of Clinical Standards and Quality.

UPDATE:

- -Started in 2006
- -Voluntary effort to help improve care
- -Over ½ of the Nursing Homes in America have signed up.
- -To Participate:
- -Go to the Advancing Excellence website;
www.NHqualitycampaign.org
- -Register online
- -Select at least three of the eight goals to work on
- -Results are tracked

-The accessibility of the website has contributed to the success of the campaign

-The portal includes implementation guidelines, webinars and “how to” tools. All information is free. Information is available for the Nursing Home, CNA’s, residents and families

Tangible Results of the campaign:

- Improvement of staff retention
- Measurably Better care
- Happier, more satisfied residents
- Provides an upper hand to those residents in those states that are considering “pay for performance” as a reimbursement methodology.
- Any facility desiring to discuss campaign can contact the Local Area Network for Excellence (LANE)-available in each state
- LANEs can provide leadership and assist with QI efforts.
- Each LANE consists of representatives from the state Nursing Home Association, Ombudsman office, State surveyor Office and QIO.

Does it Work? –Homes that set performance goals have shown great improvements compared to those without goals.

Arkansas- 100% of NH participates in the program. The restraint use rate as dropped from 13.6 statewide to 5.0 statewide and continues to go down.

Upcoming Changes- Phase 2

- November 2009-Campaign members need to go to the website to update their information and their goals.
- CMS will be telling consumers about the program on the Nursing Home Compare website.
- Encourage residents, staff and families to join.
- Goals will be data driven using standardized tools.

3) Flu Shot Update:

- Seasonal Flu Vaccine should be administered upon receipt of supply from CMS perspective-even if given in September, code on MDS as received during the 2009-2010 flu season
- DO NOT include H1N1 vaccine on MDS
- Some facilities have reported that their MDS program would not allow them to code the vaccine if it was given prior to 10/09. CMS does not have lock out dates, so the facility would need to contact their software vendor.

4) MDS 3.0

- The MDS 3.0 manual is on scheduled to be available at the end of this month. It will include the data item set and the data specification set.
- CMS strongly suggest that training on MDS 3.0 be withheld until after the CMS scheduled “Train the Trainer” training is completed (scheduled for 3/15-19/2010)
- The 1st training session is limited to state RAI coordinators
- The 2nd training will be held for stakeholders
- Web based training will be available in the summer of 2010.
- Satellite broadcasts will be available around the end of this year.

5) Observation Days

- ER services, Observation stays and any outpatient stay does not count towards the required 3-day hospital stay for the SNF part A benefit.
- CMS is currently developing a detailed publication to raise the beneficiary’s awareness regarding the 3-day qualification.

6) Contractor denies the Hospital claim after the beneficiary has begun the SNF Part A stay

- The 3-day hospital stay does not have to Medicare covered as long as it is medically necessary
- Refer to Medicare Benefit Policy Manual 100-2, Chapter 8, section 20.1
- The SNF stay would only be denied if it was determined that the hospital stay was denied because the stay represented a substantial departure from medical practice (i.e. the beneficiary was kept in the hospital only to qualify for the 3-day required post-hospital SNF benefit.
- MACs are expected to follow the CMS guidance.