



For Immediate Release
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Nevada Health Care Association Unveils New Goals to Advance Quality Care

Initiative builds on statewide quality improvements

Carson City, NV — Today, NVHCA announced new statewide goals to further improve quality care in skilled nursing care centers. As part of the profession’s ongoing Quality Initiative, the multi-year effort builds on Nevada’s progress over the last three years and includes eight measurable targets with a strategic focus on three priorities: improvements in organizational success; short-term/post-acute care; and long-stay/dementia care.

“All across Nevada, members have embraced our initiative to improve quality, and we’re proud of their significant achievements,” said NVHCA’s President / CEO Daniel Mathis. “The next three years will position nursing care providers to achieve even greater successes. It’s gratifying to know that at the end of the day, the hard work our members put into delivering quality care improves the lives of the patients, residents and families they serve.”

The goals of the Quality Initiative for the next three years include new areas of focus for quality enhancement. The eight target areas and priorities are:

Improve Organizational Success by:

1. Increasing staff stability by decreasing turnover among nursing staff by 15 percent or achieve and maintain turnover of less than 40 percent;
2. At least 25 percent of members measuring and reporting long-stay resident and family satisfaction and/or short-stay satisfaction using the Core-Q survey;
3. Reducing the number of unintended health care outcomes by March 2018;

Improve Short-Term/Post-Acute Care by:

4. Safely reducing the number of hospital readmissions within 30 days during a skilled nursing center stay by an additional 15 percent or achieve and maintain a low rate of 10 percent;
5. Improving discharge back to the community by 10 percent or achieve and maintain a high rate of at least 70 percent;
6. At least 25 percent of members adopting and using the mobility and self-care sections of the CARE tool and report functional outcome measures using LTC Trend TrackerSM;



Improve Long-Stay/Dementia Care by:

7. Safely reducing the off-label use of antipsychotics in long-stay nursing center residents by an additional 10 percent by December 2015 and 15 percent by December 2016;
8. Safely reducing hospitalizations among long-stay residents by 15 percent or achieve and maintain a low rate of 10 percent or less by March 2018.

“Each year, our members equip themselves and their centers with better approaches and tools to deliver high-quality care. The Quality Initiative is built on their hard work and progress,” said AHCA President and CEO Mark Parkinson. “For the next three years, we want to guide and encourage providers to achieve even greater success. The goals and priorities we have established will continue to improve lives and deliver solutions for the patients, residents and families our members serve.”

Since the launch of the Quality Initiative in 2012, NVHCA members have achieved improvements in 16 of 18 quality measures to include reductions of antipsychotics and avoidable hospital readmissions. Specifically, member organizations participating in ATOP have improved the avoidable hospital readmissions by more than 40%. With the new Medicaid Behavioral Complex Care programming kicking off in May, member organizations plan to offer much needed behavioral services that previously did not exist.

AHCA will use CMS data and measures to track progress of the goals. Members can view their progress using AHCA’s LTC Trend TrackerSM, a web-based, data collection and benchmarking tool.

About the AHCA Quality Initiative

The Quality Initiative is an effort that builds upon existing work of the long term and post-acute care profession in advancing quality care by setting specific, measurable targets to further improve quality of care in America’s skilled nursing centers and assisted living communities. For more information, please visit qualityinitiative.ahcanca.org.

About the Nevada Health Care Association (NVHCA)

A member of the American Health Care Association, is a nonprofit organization established in 1974 as the Nevada Association of Health Facilities.

Its mission is to provide leadership and support and to advocate for its members while working with them to improve the quality of care in Nevada’s skilled nursing, assisted living and other post-acute care settings.