

## In Brief

## Study: Medical Directors Impact Quality

Having a certified medical director (CMD) contributes positively to a nursing facility's quality of care, according to a recent study in the *Journal of the American Medical Directors Association*.

The study, commissioned by the American Medical Directors Association (AMDA) certification program, showed that the presence of a CMD will improve quality in a nursing facility by about 15 percent.

"We long have thought that a CMD makes a difference in terms of quality; but until now, this just has been an assumption," said Fred Rowland, MD, CMD, study co-author and chief of the Section of Geriatric Medicine at St. Francis Hospital and Medical Center.

"We now know that it is a measurable truth. There is value for facilities that have CMDs as medical directors," he said.

Independent researchers reviewed Online Survey, Certification, and Reporting (OSCAR) data, focusing on F-tags for areas that the medical director is most likely to influence, including restraint use, pressure ulcers, freedom from abuse, weight loss and nutrition, unnecessary drugs, and infection control.

Experienced medical directors reviewed and approved the F-tags proposed for use in the study and the survey methodology.

The researchers then compared "standardized quality scores" of 547 facilities to the remaining nursing facilities in the country.

"This study is just a first step to see if

there is a difference," Rowland said in a statement.

"I suspect we would see that a CMD makes a difference in many more areas than the F-tags we looked at, but we would need further study to determine this."

The data also address how other factors, such as facility size, not-for-profit status, and higher registered nurse hours per patient day, relate to the presence of a CMD to impact the quality of care in nursing facilities.

Rowland suggests that the study provides evidence for states considering a mandate for CMD education or similar training for their nursing facility medical directors.

More than 2,500 physician medical directors have qualified to receive the CMD designation since 1991.

— Meg LaPorte

Would you pay 15% more for  
your supplies?  
You already are.

No one can save  
you more on supplies.  
PERIOD.

VHA can save you up to 15% on the items you already purchase. There's no membership fee and no minimum purchase to make. How is this possible? We are the largest buying group in the health care industry with the widest portfolio of suppliers. This gives us the kind of buying power to meet the needs of any type of health care organization. Don't pay more than you have to. Call us today.

**How much can you save?**  
Call 1.800.842.5146 or visit  
[www.vha.com/nonacutesavings](http://www.vha.com/nonacutesavings)  
for a FREE pricing study – a \$175 value.



Visit us at Booth #538 at the AHCA/NCAL Convention.