

Technical Expert Panel

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About Us

The Resource Group is comprised of faculty and staff at the Division of Health Policy and Management at the University of Minnesota School of Public Health, staff at Stratis Health, and distinguished consultants from around the United States. We also work closely with a Technical Expert Panel, established by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), to give input to the work on an ongoing basis.

University of Minnesota team

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- Jennifer Lundblad, Ph.D., MBA
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CMS

QAPI

*Quality Assurance and
Performance Improvement
for nursing homes*



*Transforming nursing homes
through continuous attention
to quality of care and
quality of life*

A University of Minnesota & Stratis Health Resource Group to assist with the national rollout of QAPI in nursing homes.

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QAPI Overview

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is leading an initiative that could transform the way nursing homes ensure quality. This initiative goes beyond the current QAA provision, and aims to significantly expand the intensity and scope of current activities in order to not only correct quality deficiencies (quality assurance), but also to put practices in place to monitor all nursing home care and services to continuously improve performance.

QAPI Elements

QAPI Programs will have five general elements, consistent with all other health care settings:

- Design and Scope
- Governance and Leadership
- Feedback, Data Systems, and Monitoring
- Performance Improvement Projects
- Systematic Analysis and Systemic Action

The challenge is to apply the elements in a way that captures the varied missions of today's nursing homes, and builds in recognition that a culture of safety must co-exist with respect for resident choice and quality of life.

Role of Resource Group

In the fall of 2010, CMS contracted with the University of Minnesota and Stratis Health to provide assistance as prototypes for QAPI in nursing homes are developed and tested. They are:

- Identifying and creating tools to assist facilities with implementing QAPI processes;
- Providing a menu of tools for specific topics areas;
- Starting an on-line resource library for QAPI; and
- Developing on-line learning modules and other materials for QAPI.

QAPI Demonstration

Seventeen volunteer nursing homes from California, Florida, Massachusetts, and Minnesota have begun part of a demonstration by launching QAPI programs, testing technical assistance approaches, and evaluating effective practices.

New Regulation

CMS will establish new regulations relating to quality assurance and performance improvement (QAPI) and will implement a technical assistance program to help facilities meet these new expectations. All nursing homes will be required to inform the Secretary of HHS of their QAPI plans after the final promulgation of these regulations.

Stakeholder Involvement

As QAPI evolves, CMS is eager for stakeholders to become informed and involved in the process. Many groups have a stake in the successful launch of QAPI:

- Actual and perspective residents and their family members;
- Professional advocacy groups;
- Professional associations involved with nursing homes;
- Nursing Home provider groups;
- Government and private payers and nursing home regulators;
- Quality Improvement Organizations

CMS intends to convene stakeholders in a variety of forums over the next several years and to make information widely available to all stakeholders.

A QAPI on-line resource center will be tested in the demonstration project and become publicly available in 2012.

Please Weigh In

Direct questions, comments, or suggestions to
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