

Rationalizing the Regulatory System for America's Nursing Homes

THE BETTER WAY

THE WRONG WAY

America's nursing home oversight system is inconsistent and ineffective. For decades, policymakers have piled on requirements, reporting and enforcement but the oversight system has failed to produce real change. It does not drive quality improvement among nursing homes or enhance the quality of life for residents. Stakeholders across the gamut are unsatisfied with the results, and policymakers and taxpayers aren't getting an optimal return on their investment.

THE BETTER WAY

The American Health Care Association recommends a comprehensive approach aimed at creating a more **effective and balanced** regulatory environment for nursing homes that prioritizes quality care, enhances transparency, and promotes fairness in oversight and enforcement. These solutions focus on practical improvements that ensure residents receive **high-quality care** and **maintain accountability** while **creating government efficiencies** and minimizing unnecessary burdens on care providers.

AHCA has specific recommendations for a number of nursing home regulations or federal oversight processes to help make a positive impact on the lives of residents and caregivers.



Modernize the Survey Process to Be More Consistent, Efficient and Effective

- Expand Risk-Based Surveys Nationwide
- Allow Deemed Status
- Revise the Special Focus Facility Program to Support Sustainable Quality Improvement



Enhance Consumer Transparency with More Accurate and Timelier Information

- Recalibrate the Five-Star Rating System
- Improve the Payroll-Based Journal Reporting Process

The Better Way Benefits

Seniors & Families

- Better Care
- More Choices
- Improved Access
- Clear Information

Policymakers

- Create Efficiencies
- Ensure Accountability & Transparency
- Better Return on Taxpayer Investment

Caregivers

- Support Improvements
- Streamline Administrative Work
- Reduce Burdens and Burnout
- Put Patients Over Paperwork

Rationalizing the Regulatory System for America's Nursing Homes

THE BETTER WAY



A More Fair and Balanced Oversight System

- Bring Consistency Across Healthcare Settings
- Recognize Facilities Making Good Faith Efforts
- Focus On Improvement Instead of Excessive Fines
- Ensure Accountability of Regulators



Streamline Reporting to Put Patients Over Paperwork

- Remove Reporting Unnecessary Measures That Are Not Linked to Resident Outcomes
- Discontinue Duplicative Paperwork (e.g., Respiratory Illness Reporting)
- Set Reasonable Thresholds on Ownership Disclosures



Support Workforce Development

- Expand In-House Training Programs for CNAs
- Increase Availability of Directors of Food & Nutrition Services



Encourage Innovation

- Expand Opportunities for Telehealth
- Transition to Automated Health Information Reporting



TAKE ACTION

Tell CMS to advance these meaningful solutions:

- Quickly implement certain solutions by issuing sub-regulatory guidance
- Pursue formal rulemaking for other solutions

Tell Congress to pass legislation to make statutory changes per AHCA's recommendations.

Learn how you can get involved by contacting GR@ahca.org.