

The AHCA Quality Initiative is a national, multi-year effort to further improve quality of care in America's long term and post-acute care centers. Since the launch of the Initiative in 2012, members have been challenged to meet measurable targets in key areas such as hospitalizations and antipsychotics usage. While significant improvements have been made, more must be done. The next phase of the effort continues to challenge providers to achieve quantitative results in areas that are aligned with federal mandates that link financial outcomes to quality performance and are top priorities for the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), Accountable Care Organizations (ACOs) as well as Managed Care Organizations (MCOs). AHCA also encourages members to track their progress through AHCA/NCAL's data collection and benchmarking tool, LTC Trend TrackerSM.

The Skilled Nursing Care Goals deadline March 2021



Hospitalizations

Hospitalizations have the potential for negative physical, emotional, and psychological impacts on individuals in skilled nursing care and cost the Medicare program millions of dollars. This issue is the foundation of the [Skilled Nursing Facility \(SNF\) Value Based Purchasing \(VBP\) Program](#), a CMS effort that links financial outcomes to quality performance starting on Oct. 1, 2018.

GOAL: Safely reduce long-stay and short-stay hospitalizations by improving 10%—or maintain a rate of 10% or less.



Customer Satisfaction

The happiness and peace of mind of patients, residents, and their families is paramount to skilled nursing care providers. Measuring and reporting satisfaction can help nursing centers identify and improve resident outcomes and organizational success.

GOAL: Improve long-stay and short-stay satisfaction by 10%—or achieve a rate of >90%.



Functional Outcomes

The Medicare Payment Advisory Commission (MedPAC), the [IMPACT Act](#), and CMS all called for the development of functional improvement measures based on the self-care and mobility sections of the [Continuity Assessment Record and Evaluation \(CARE\)](#) tool. Maintaining or improving mobility and self-care abilities is important to healthy aging and maximizing independence.

GOAL: Improve functional outcomes (self-care and mobility) by 15%.



Antipsychotics

The use of antipsychotic medication to treat behavior associated with dementia is not supported clinically and is considered off-label by the FDA. Antipsychotics increase the risk of death, falls with fractures, hospitalizations and other complications resulting in poor health and high costs.

GOAL: Safely reduce the off-label use of antipsychotics by 10%—or maintain a rate of 8% or less in long-stay residents, and maintain a rate of 1% or less in short-stay residents

The Tools

The Association encourages members to access free resources on ahcancalED at educate.ahcancal.org and use LTC Trend TrackerSM at www.LTCTrendTracker.com to help accomplish the goals of the Quality Initiative.

Learn more about the AHCA Quality Initiative at qualityinitiative.ahcancal.org