

Putting Your Pledge Into Practice

Quality
First

AHCA proudly announces



"Advancing Excellence in America's Nursing Homes, builds on the success of Quality First, the Nursing Home Quality Initiative (NHQI), the 8th Scope of Work for Quality Improvement Organizations (QIOs) and the culture change movement, and will set the stage for providers to ensure their patients and residents have the highest quality long term care experience,"

-- Bruce Yarwood, President and CEO of AHCA/NCAL

Advancing Excellence in America's Nursing Homes

A Campaign to Improve Quality of Life for Residents & Staff

On September 29, 2006, an unprecedented gathering of stakeholders launched the **Advancing Excellence in America's Nursing Homes** campaign, a voluntary, 2-year effort that will help focus providers, government, professional and consumer advocates and others on quality care improvement efforts. AHCA encourages providers to participate because it moves them further toward enhancing the quality of care and life for residents, patients and staff.

AHCA anticipates that the benefit of participation will be more efficient use of scarce resources, better risk management, greater staff operational focus, increased staff retention and a

robust willingness by customers to recommend the facility to others.

The Advancing Excellence campaign will be the primary focus of Quality First and the NHQI for the next two years. The campaign will provide tangible evidence of and visibility for the quality care in the nursing home setting, and increase public trust and confidence in the long term care community.

Join the Campaign at www.nhqualitycampaign.org

Providers participating in the Advancing Excellence in America's Nursing Homes campaign will commit to focus on at least three of the eight measurable goals, with at least one goal coming from each column:

Clinical Goals

1. Reducing high risk pressure ulcers;
2. Reducing the use of daily physical restraints;
3. Improving pain management for longer term nursing home residents; and
4. Improving pain management for short stay, post-acute nursing home residents.

Operational/Process Goals*

5. Establishing individual targets for improving quality;
6. Assessing resident and family satisfaction with the quality of care;
7. Increasing staff retention; and
8. Improving consistent assignment of nursing home staff, so that residents regularly receive care from the same caregivers.

Many providers are focusing efforts on similar goals as part of their ongoing quality initiatives, participating is a simple, seamless transition.

** While the campaign will track these goals, the data for goals #5-8 will remain confidential unless the provider elects to publish them. Please note legal considerations as contained in this document. Technical assistance and guidance from quality experts is offered to assist facilities in reaching their targeted goals.*