In early 2012, the American Health Care Association (AHCA) launched a multi-year national effort to further improve the quality of care in America’s skilled nursing care centers through its Quality Initiative. The profession’s ongoing efforts have improved the lives of the individuals AHCA members serve while also reducing health care costs. In 2018, the Association rolled out the next phase of its Initiative to include measurable three-year targets in key areas such as hospitalizations and antipsychotic usage. The effort aligns 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). Learn more at qualityinitiative.ahcancal.org.

THE GOALS

SAFELY REDUCE HOSPITALIZATIONS
Goal: Safely reduce long-stay and short-stay hospitalizations by improving 10 percent—or maintain a rate of 10 percent or less—by March 2021.

INCREASE CUSTOMER SATISFACTION
Goal: Improve long-stay and short-stay satisfaction by 10 percent—or achieve a rate of 90 percent or greater—by March 2021.

IMPROVE FUNCTIONAL OUTCOMES

SAFELY REDUCE THE OFF-LABEL USE OF ANTIPSYCHOTICS
Goal: Safely reduce the off-label use of antipsychotics by 10 percent—or maintain a rate of 8 percent or less in long-stay residents, and maintain a rate of 1 percent or less in short-stay residents—by March 2021.

THE RISING TREND IN QUALITY IMPROVEMENTS

Since the launch of the Quality Initiative in 2012, long term and post-acute care providers have made significant improvements in quality:

HOSPITALIZATIONS
AHCA members have successfully prevented over 247,000 individuals from returning to the hospital within 30 days — from 19.1% in Q4 2011 to 16.9% in Q3 2019.

ANTIPSYCHOTICS
AHCA members’ average rate decreased from 23.6% in Q4 2011 to 14.0% in Q4 2019.