About The Program

The Quality Initiative is a national effort through AHCA/NCAL that builds upon the existing work of the long term and post-acute care profession by setting specific, measurable targets to further improve quality of care in America’s skilled nursing centers and assisted living communities.

The Quality Initiative Recognition Program honors AHCA/NCAL member skilled nursing care centers and assisted living communities that achieve a number of goals, outlined below, through the Quality Initiative.

All necessary data submissions for the 2018 Quality Initiative Recognition Program must be submitted by October 13, 2017 through LTC Trend Tracker. Quality Initiative Recognition Program achievers will be notified later this year by the AHCA/NCAL Quality Initiative Recognition Program team and will be recognized at the AHCA/NCAL Quality Summit in New Orleans, March 12-14, 2018.

Eligibility

Skilled Nursing Care Centers

Skilled nursing care member centers must achieve four or more of the following AHCA Quality Initiative goals:

- Decrease turnover rates among nursing staff by 15% from 2015 or achieve/maintain at or less than 40%
- Adopt Core-Q customer satisfaction questionnaire and measure and upload data to LTC Trend Tracker
- Reduce the number of unintended health care outcomes
- Safely reduce the number of hospital readmissions within 30 days during a skilled nursing center stay by 30% from December 2011 or achieve and maintain a low rate of 10%
- Improve discharge back to the community by 10% from December 2014 or achieve and maintain a high rate of at least 70%
- Improve functional outcomes by 10% from December 2015 or maintain an average rate of improvement of 75%
- Safely reduce the off-label use of antipsychotics in long-stay nursing center residents by a total of 30% from December 2011
- Safely reduce hospitalizations among long-stay residents by 15% from December 2014 or achieve/maintain a low rate of 10% or less

To participate in the program, eligible skilled nursing care centers must submit staffing and customer satisfaction data in LTC Trend Tracker by October 13, 2017. All other data is automatically uploaded by LTC Trend Tracker.

Assisted Living Communities

Assisted living member communities must achieve two or more of the following NCAL Quality Initiative goals:

- Increase staff stability by maintaining nursing and direct care staff turnover below 40%
- Increase customer satisfaction to 90%
- Safely reduce hospital readmissions by 15% or achieve a low readmission rate of 5% or less
- Safely reduce the off-label use of antipsychotics by 15% or achieve a low off-label usage rate of 5% or less

To participate in the program, eligible assisted living communities must submit data for all NCAL goals in LTC Trend Tracker by October 13, 2017. Customer satisfaction vendors can upload data to LTC Trend Tracker on behalf of members. A list of vendors able to upload can be found here.

Additional Resources

Members are encouraged to check their data on LTC Trend Tracker to see where they stand on each Quality Initiative goal. AHCA members can also download their quarterly LTC Trend Tracker Top-Line publication. Additional resources for achieving Quality Initiative goals are available on each of the Quality Initiative websites here and here for skilled nursing centers and assisted living communities.