



Oklahoma State Department of Health
Creating a State of Health

July 1, 2009

TO: Long Term Care Administrators

Provider Letter 09-03

Dear Administrator:

Please find enclosed a letter from Dr. Peter Winn to be delivered to your medical directors. Dr. Winn is actively involved in trying to improve the status of the quality measures and provide important updates to medical directors. I do not have a directory of your medical directors so I am asking you to ensure that this information gets to the intended recipient. Of course, you are also welcome to share the information in your facility or with others. You may be receiving subsequent updates.

It is Dr. Winn's goal to improve quality of care for our residents and help close the gaps on information and participation between you and your medical director. He is very actively involved as a medical director and stays current on national trends and best practices. I hope this outreach provides beneficial outcomes to your long term care community.

Regards,

Dorya Huser
Chief, Long Term Care
Protective Health Services

Enclosure

- C: DHS Aging Services Division, State LTC Ombudsman
Oklahoma Association of Health Care Providers
Oklahoma Association of Homes and Services for the Aging
Oklahoma Health Care Authority
Oklahoma State Board of Examiners for Long Term Care Administrators

Memo

Subject: Oklahoma Nursing Facility Quality Initiatives

Dear Fellow Medical Directors and Colleagues,

I would like to take this opportunity to bring to your attention several statewide initiatives on quality improvement in Oklahoma's nursing facilities.

1. First and foremost, the Commissioner of Health has established the **Oklahoma Healthcare Quality Improvement Advisory Committee**. The prerogative of this committee is "to provide focus and direction to improve quality of health care services through the combined, motivated and concentrated efforts of many partners of the (Oklahoma) health care system." There are three subcommittees: Long Term Care, Home Health and Hospital, and Outpatient Practice.

The primary instigator to the establishment of the Commissioner's Committee was Oklahoma's poor performance in several health areas that were reported by the Commonwealth Fund and the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ). Included with this memo is a copy of 2007 AHRQ nursing home care performance measures.

http://www.ok.gov/health/Protective_Health/Medical_Facilities_Service/Quality_Initiatives/index.html

2. Second, the Oklahoma Department of Health Long Term Care Advisory Board established a "**Medical Directors Best Practices Subcommittee**" in early 2008. Dr. Jean Root (Tulsa) and Dr. Peter Winn (OKC) serve as co-chairs. The deliberations and recommendations of this subcommittee are reported directly to the Advisory Board and to the Commissioner's Committee. Several community-based medical directors of nursing facilities, that includes Drs. Root and Winn, sit on this subcommittee as well as representatives from the nursing home associations, the Oklahoma Foundation for Medical Quality (OFMQ), the nursing home Administrator's Licensure Board, the Department of Health (Long Term Care Services Division), the Oklahoma Health Care Authority and other representatives.
3. "**Focus on Excellence**" is another quality initiative that is ongoing at both the national level and locally through the Oklahoma Health Care Authority that administers the Oklahoma Medicaid program. This initiative takes several factors into account and provides potentially increased reimbursement to nursing facilities that have better performance and outcomes. Their website is <http://www.ohca.state.ok.us> and your nursing home rating is available at <http://www.oknursinghomeratings.com>
4. Lastly, the **Oklahoma Foundation for Medical Quality (OFMQ)** has an ongoing contract with CMS that is focused on restraint use and the prevention of pressure ulcers in up to 70 to 100 nursing facilities in Oklahoma. You may want to speak to your nursing facility's director of nursing to see if it is participating in this initiative.

5. As a nursing facility medical director, consider joining the **American Medical Directors Association (AMDA)** at www.amda.com and Oklahoma's state chapter of AMDA. This national organization offers excellent educational material as well as an intensive course on medical direction for physicians.
6. Also, consider viewing your **nursing facility's publically reported quality data** at the CMS website (just google "nursing home compare" and follow the directions) and ask your DON to print out your "**Facility Quality Measure/Quality Indicator Report.**" You may want to periodically review this data as part of your facility's quality assurance program.
7. **To learn more about these quality initiatives go to the following websites:**

<http://www.medicare.gov/NHCompare/home.asp>
www.oknursinghomeratings.com
www.myinnerview.com

Sincerely,

Peter Winn, MD, CMD

Co-chair,
Medical Directors Best Practices Subcommittee
Long Term Care Facilities Advisory Board
Oklahoma Department of Health

President, Oklahoma Chapter of AMDA

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