



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES
Aging and Long-Term Support Administration
PO Box 45600, Olympia, WA 98504-5600

March 11, 2015

AL TSA: NH #2015-007
S&C 15-26: NURSING HOME COMPARE 3.0
FIVE STAR QUALITY RATING SYSTEM EXPANDED AND STRENGTHENED

Dear Nursing Facility/Home Administrator:

Recently, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) issued S&C Memo 15-26-NH regarding changes and improvements to the *Five Star Quality Rating System*.

Effective February 20, 2015 the changes and improvements include:

- Quality Measures (QMs) for nursing homes' use of antipsychotic medication in residents without diagnoses of schizophrenia, Huntington's disease, or Tourette syndrome in the Five Star calculations.
- Raising the threshold for nursing homes to achieve a high rating on all measures publicly reported in the QM dimension on the website.
- Updating expectations for State Survey Agencies to conduct specialized, onsite surveys of a sample of nursing homes across the U.S.

To assist States, Regions, providers, and consumers in answering questions, CMS will be providing updated information on the CMS website periodically at:

<http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Provider-Enrollment-and-Certification/CertificationandCompliance/FSQRS.html>

You can review the full CMS S&C memo on the internet at:

<http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Provider-Enrollment-and-Certification/SurveyCertificationGenInfo/Downloads/Survey-and-Cert-Letter-15-26.pdf>

Thank you for your continued commitment to nursing home residents. If you have any questions, please contact your local RCS Field Manager.

Sincerely,

Carl I. Walters II., Director
Residential Care Services

"Transforming Lives"