

NURSING HOME TRANSPARENCY AND QUALITY OF CARE IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2008

Increases Transparency of Nursing Home Ownership and Operations

- Enables nursing home residents and the government to know who actually owns the nursing home and controls the decision-making affecting quality of care.
- Provides for improved reporting of nurse staffing information and more transparency on nursing home expenditures on patient care and other activities so that apples-to-apples comparisons can be made across nursing homes
- Improves Nursing Home Compare by including nursing home ownership information, the identity of participants in the Special Focus Facility program, and data on staffing levels.

Puts Patients First

- Provides greater protection to nursing home residents by requiring advance notice of impending nursing home closures and development of resident transfer and relocation plans.
- Brings uniformity and structure to the nursing home complaint process by requiring a standardized complaint form and establishing complaint resolution processes that include whistleblower protections, complainant notification, and response deadlines.
- Requires a study on best practices for the appointment of temporary nursing home management when needed to assure the health and safety of residents.
- Authorizes demonstration projects for nursing home “culture change” and for improving resident care through health information technology

Improves Staff Training

- Improves staff training to include dementia management and abuse prevention training as part of pre-employment training.
- Requires a study on increased training requirements either in content or hours for nurse aides and supervisory staff.

Strengthens Enforcement

- Ensures that nursing homes establish and implement mandatory ethics and compliance programs.
- Strengthens current enforcement processes by making civil monetary penalties more meaningful.
- Studies the feasibility of new independent monitoring requirements that would apply to multi-state and large intrastate nursing home chains with a track record of poor performance.
- Develops and tests best practices for quality assurance and improvement programs.
- Requires a GAO study on how the under-capitalization of nursing homes affects quality of care and possible solutions to ensure appropriate financial stability.