



Indiana State  
Department of Health

# LONG TERM CARE NEWSLETTER

## ISDH Long Term Care Newsletter

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## CMS Update

### SC 15-49-NH: Final Rule - SNF Medicare FY 2016 Payments, Quality Reporting, Value-Based Purchasing & Staffing Data Collection Requirements - *Informational Only*

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) released survey and certification letter [SC 15-49-NH](#). The final rule published on August 4, 2015 implements new requirements regarding the submission of staffing data to CMS based on payroll and other verifiable and auditable data.

Effective July 1, 2016, long-term care facilities that participate in Medicare and Medicaid must electronically submit direct care staffing information (including information for agency and contract staff) based on payroll and other verifiable and auditable data in a uniform format to CMS.

Registration began August 4, 2015 for facilities to register for the voluntarily submission period which begins October 1, 2015. [Click here](#) for the full text document of the final rule.

### Partnership to Improve Dementia Care in Nursing Homes Update

CMS is tracking the progress of the Partnership by reviewing publicly reported measures. The CMS [Partnership to Improve Dementia Care in Nursing Homes Update](#) provides updated data on antipsychotic drug use in nursing homes.

The official measure of the Partnership is the percentage of long-stay nursing home residents who are receiving an antipsychotic medication, excluding those residents diagnosed with schizophrenia, Huntington's Disease or Tourette's Syndrome. In 2011 Q4 23.9% of long-stay nursing home residents were receiving an antipsychotic medication. There has since been a decrease of 21.7% to a national prevalence of 18.7% in 2015 Q1. Success has varied by state and CMS region with some states and regions having seen a reduction of greater than 20%. The Indiana rate for 2015 Q1 was 18.35%. A three-quarter measure is posted to the Nursing Home Compare website at [www.medicare.gov/nursinghomecompare](http://www.medicare.gov/nursinghomecompare).

## Partnership to Improve Dementia Care in Nursing Homes - Provider Call

There will be a national conference call for providers on the Partnership to Improve Dementia Care in Nursing Homes. The call will be Thursday, September 3, 2015 from 1:00 to 3:00 pm ET. The following link provides information: [Partnership to Improve Dementia Care in Nursing Homes - Provider Call](#).

During this MLN Connects National Provider Call, two nursing homes will share how they successfully implemented person-centered care approaches and overcame the barriers of cost and staff. Additionally, CMS subject matter experts will update you on the progress of the National Partnership and Quality Assurance and Performance Improvement (QAPI). A question and answer session will follow the presentations.

## Influenza Season

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) 2015-16 recommendation for prevention and control of seasonal influenza were published in complete form in the [Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report](#) (MMWR) on August 6, 2015.

Routine annual influenza vaccination is recommended for all persons aged  $\geq 6$  months who do not have contraindications. Optimally, vaccination should occur before onset of influenza viruses activity in the community. Health care providers should offer vaccination by October, if possible. Vaccination should continue to be offered as long as influenza viruses are circulating.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has information about "[What you should know for the 2015-2016 Influenza Season](#)". In addition, the vaccine information statements are available for [Influenza Vaccine - Inactivated or Recombinant](#) and [Influenza Vaccine - Live, Intranasal](#).

## CRE & *C. difficile* Webinar – August 20, 2015

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is hosting a webinar titled "CRE and *C. difficile* : Is your Healthcare Facility Implementing the Necessary Approach to Stop the Spread?" Information on the webinar is found at the following link: [CRE & \*C. difficile\* Webinar - August 20, 2015](#).

An increasing number of germs no longer respond to the drugs designed to kill them. Inappropriate prescribing of antibiotics and lack of infection control actions can contribute to drug resistant infections such as carbapenem-resistant Enterobacteriaceae (CRE) and put patients at risk for deadly diarrhea caused by *Clostridium difficile* (CDI or *C. difficile* ). During this call, clinicians will hear from some of the nation's top clinical experts on preventing antibiotic resistant infections and improving antibiotic stewardship. Join the discussion to learn about best practices that can be implemented today to protect patients from these potentially deadly infections.