



California
Department of
Health Services

SANDRA SHEWRY
Director

State of California—Health and Human Services Agency
Department of Health Services



ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER
Governor

June 20, 2005

AFL 05-20

TO: SKILLED NURSING FACILITIES
NURSING FACILITIES
INTERMEDIATE CARE FACILITIES

FROM: CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES
LICENSING AND CERTIFICATION PROGRAM AND LUMETRA

SUBJECT: WORKING TO IMPROVE QUALITY IN NURSING HOMES

BACKGROUND: The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has recently initiated a three-year project to work with, and to augment State survey agencies (SAs) current efforts towards prevention and effective treatment of pressure ulcers. Please refer to the enclosure, Survey and Certification Letter 05-18.

Based on the result of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' (CMS) third quarter Quality Measures, there is increased focus on decreasing the prevalence of pressure ulcers and decreasing the use of physical restraints.

The national goals set by CMS to reduce the prevalence of pressures sores is 8.9% for 2004, 8.7% for 2005 and 8.6% for 2006. Below is the summary of where California compares with the nation using the CMS' 2004 third quarter Nursing Home Quality Initiative, Standardized Analytic Report dated February 2005.

	No. of NHs	% All NHs cited for Pressure Ulcers	High Risk Pressure Ulcer Quality Measure
Nation	16,144	14.8	13.39
California	1311	18.7	13.55

The national goals set by CMS to reduce the use of physical restraints is 7.2% for 2004, 6.6% for 2005 and 6.4% for 2006. The summary below shows where California compares with the nation using the 2004 third quarter Nursing Home Quality Initiative, Standardized Analytic Report dated February 2005.

	No. of NHs	% All NHs cited for physical restraints	Physical Restraints Quality Measure
Nation	16,144	9.5	7.45
California	1311	14.7	15.39

Although California Department of Health Services, Licensing and Certification (L&C) Program is not a participant in the project with CMS, the L&C Program is working in partnership with Lumetra, the California Quality Improvement Organization (QIO) that is contracted with CMS, to work on Lumetra's 8th Scope of Work (SOW) goal, which in addition to reducing the prevalence of high risk pressure ulcers, includes reduction of the use of physical restraints and improving organizational culture in nursing homes.

L&C and Lumetra will be working collaboratively to meet these goals by sharing pertinent data, coordinating training, and providing educational materials for nursing home providers and L&C survey staff. These efforts will also be coordinated with provider associations and CMS to accomplish this goal.

The purpose of this letter is to extend an invitation to interested providers to partner with Lumetra and L&C by participating in our joint goal to decrease the prevalence of pressure ulcers, reduce the use of physical restraints, and improve organizational culture in nursing homes.

To "kickoff" the 8th SOW, Lumetra is sponsoring, in collaboration with the California Hospital Association, the California Association of Health Facilities, the California Association of Homes & Services for the Aging, the California Ombudsman, CMS Region IX, and the L&C, a Culture Change Caravan. The Culture Change Caravan's purpose is to build awareness about reducing pressure ulcers and the use of physical restraints, and improving organizational culture in nursing homes. The Caravan is a five-day tour that will kickoff in San Diego on August 1 and concludes in Sacramento on August 5, 2005. During the tour there will be three workshops.

Workshop Details:

Date	Location
August 1	Ararat Nursing Facility, Los Angeles
August 2	Fresno Convention Center
August 5	Sheraton Grand Hotel, Sacramento
Expert Faculty	
Pressure Ulcers: New F-314 requirements for pressure ulcer assessment and care <ul style="list-style-type: none">• CAPT Eloise Beechinor, R.D., M.P.H (<i>CMS Region IX</i>)• CAPT John S. Motter, RN, USPHS (<i>CMS Region IX</i>) Restraints: Strategies to reduce the use of physical restraints• Mary Frances Colvin, RN (<i>CMS Region IX</i>) Culture Change• Bill Thomas, MD (<i>Founder of the Eden Alternative</i>): The journey to culture change	

To register for workshops, complete the enclosed Workshop Registration Form. Pre-registration is required.

If you have any questions, please contact Jesusa Dobbs at (415) 677-2015 or by e-mail at jdobbs@caqio.sdps.org. For more information about the Culture Change Caravan you may visit www.lumetra.com/nursinghomes/events/culturecaravan.asp.

We look forward to seeing you on tour!

Sincerely,

**Original Signed by
Brenda G. Klutz**

Brenda G. Klutz
Deputy Director

Enclosures

cc: California Association of Health Facilities
California Healthcare Association
California Association of Homes and Services for the Aging
California Advocates for Nursing Home Reform
National Senior Citizens Law Center
California Ombudsman
Bet Tzedek
Lumetra