



Center for Clinical Standards and Quality/Survey & Certification Group

Ref: S&C: 13-43-NH

DATE: June 28, 2013

TO: State Survey Agency Directors

FROM: Director
Survey and Certification Group

SUBJECT: Changes to the Nursing Home Compare Website Data that is Available for Download on the Medicare.gov Website (Effective July 2013)

Memorandum Summary

- **Redirecting website traffic to the data.medicare.gov website** – In July 2013 all users of the Nursing Home Compare website that wish to download the nursing home data will be redirected to the data.medicare.gov website (<https://data.medicare.gov/>).
- **New data layouts and additional nursing home data available for viewing and download on the data.medicare.gov website** –In July 2013, we will be restructuring some of the nursing home data currently available for download. We will also be adding additional information that is not currently posted on the Nursing Home Compare website.

Overview

Redirecting website traffic to the data.medicare.gov website

Starting in July 2013, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services will direct users of the Nursing Home Compare website to the data.medicare.gov website to download or view nursing home data. The data.medicare.gov site is the main website for regulators, researchers, quality improvement leads, and other individuals who have a need to download nursing home data. This website should provide better access and navigation for users.

New data layouts and additional nursing home data available for viewing and download on the data.medicare.gov website

Currently the data.medicare.gov website contains only the same data that are displayed on the consumer-oriented Nursing Home Compare website. We will be making some changes in July 2013 to the data on the data.medicare.gov website, including adding data that are not currently available on the Nursing Home Compare website. Many of these data are currently available on

the cms.gov website; however, some data, such as data about detailed inspection points are not currently available on any other websites that we are aware of.

Below are examples of additional items we will begin posting in July:

- Expected and adjusted nursing home staffing data - the expected staffing data are based on the MDS-derived nursing home case mix
- More detailed health inspection data, such as number of revisits required to determine compliance, counts of substandard quality of care deficiencies, and health inspections points calculated by the Five-Star Quality Rating System
- Quality measure values for the past three quarters and the three quarter average that is used for the quality measure star rating
- A table listing national and state averages for some variables, such as the number of health deficiencies, number and amount of civil money penalties, and quality measures

We are posting these data in an effort to improve transparency and provide more information to the public about nursing homes. Please contact Edward Mortimore (410-786-3509) or Dan Andersen (410-786-2640) if you have any questions.

Effective Date: Immediately. This policy should be shared with all survey and certification staff, their managers and the State/Regional Office training coordinators within 30 days of this memorandum.

/s/

Thomas E. Hamilton

cc: Survey and Certification Regional Office Management