



OHIO NURSING HOME QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

WCEI Wound Care Certification

Description

Prevention and healing of pressure ulcers in SNF patients has long been a goal of providers, regulatory and payment agencies, and consumer advocates. Pressure ulcers in the long and short stay SNF populations are measured through Quality Measures (QMs) developed by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and endorsed by the National Quality Forum. Pressure ulcers are a key element of federal initiatives such as 5 Star rating, as well as of technical assistance efforts offered through the Quality Improvement Organizations.

Ohio's state average for the pressure ulcer QMs as of the second quarter of 2015 remains at or near the national average (1.2% vs. 1.2% for short stay; 5.6% vs. 5.9% for long stay), showing that there is room for improvement. Moreover, the bottom 25% of Ohio centers (about 200 centers,) have long stay rates ranging from 7.6% to 26.3% and short stay rates ranging from 1.9% to 22.8%, well above the state and national averages.

Pressure ulcers are costly to treat. A survey of literature on the subject by the National Pressure Ulcer Advisory Panel (<https://www.npuap.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/01/Braden-NPUAP-cost-vs-prevention-final.pdf>) documented cost estimates ranging from \$43,000 to \$127,000.

The believes that improving the knowledge and technical skills of staff who implement pressure ulcer treatment and prevention efforts "on the ground" in SNFs will have a positive impact on the centers' QMs, reflecting better patient outcomes and ultimately, cost savings.

The Wound Care Educational Institute (WCEI) <http://www.wcei.net/>, the national leader in wound care education and certification, offers comprehensive wound care educational programming, culminating in a certification examination. The OHCA Educational Foundation (EFOHCA), a 501(c)(3) organization with an extensive track record in quality education for long term services and supports personnel, administers the program.

How to Join

Any Ohio SNF with a WCEI-certified nurse(s) is eligible.

To enroll in the WCEI certification program through EFOHCA, a facility must contact the EFOHCA to participate (see contact information below).

Brief Description of Required Activities

1. Employ an individual(s) with WCEI certification to provide wound care in the home for a minimum of 6 months of the previous 2-year period;
2. Designate a QAPI team to work on pressure ulcer prevention and healing;
3. Measure and report baseline and monthly progress data on long- and short-stay resident pressure ulcer quality measures for the duration of the project period using the Advancing Excellence in America's Nursing Homes campaign [Pressure Ulcers Tracking Tool](#)
 - a. The home should complete the data entry on residents with pressure ulcers then save and print the "Data for Website Entry" report each month for evidence of participation (see below)

Participation dates

The WCEI Wound Care Certification Project is available to launch at any time.

Evidence of Participation in the Project

Expected evidence of participation in the project should be kept by the nursing home for use in state survey to demonstrate compliance with Sec. 3721.072 (B) which states that "Beginning July 1, 2013, each nursing home shall participate every two years in at least one of the quality improvement projects included on the list made available by the department of aging under the nursing home quality initiative established under section 173.60 of the Revised Code."

Proof of WCEI certification of at least one nurse employed by the facility for a minimum of 6 months in the previous two years or enrollment confirmation for a nurse currently undergoing training;

Wound Care QAPI team roster and meeting agendas from launch through current date;

Baseline and ongoing pressure ulcer QM data on short- and long-stay residents of the home, documented monthly for the duration of the project. Monthly "Data for Website Entry" reports on pressure ulcers from the Advancing Excellence Pressure Ulcers Tracking Tool from the beginning of the project through the current date.

Tools Available to Participants

WCEI offers many alumni benefits and supports including access to research materials; tools, forms and "how to" videos; a free mobile APP; live seminars and webinars; hands-on workshops; free webinars; and social networking with 20,000+ alumni. <http://www.wcei.net/>

Contact

Kathy Chapman, OHCA Education Director, kchapman@ohca.org, 614-436-4154, www.efohca.org