



A Note from Judy Wilhide Brandt

There's an important email from Swingtech that has been sent out to providers who are under the 80% threshold for Q1 CY21.

This is a warning you have time to do something about if you do it

by August 16, 2021. Swingtech is the CMS contractor monitoring MDS submissions for the 2% APU reduction. CY2021 will determine the penalty for October 2022, next year. If this is news to you, I have a recorded webinar to explain SNF QRP on my website. <https://judywilhide.podia.com/snf-qrp-explainer-avoid-a-2-apu-reduction-this-october>

MDS data for January 1 – March 31 (Q1) of CY 2021 are due with this submission deadline. **All data must be submitted no later than 11:59 p.m. on August 16, 2021.** Swingtech sends informational messages to SNFs that are not meeting APU thresholds on a quarterly basis ahead of each submission deadlines. If you need to add or change the email addresses to which these messages are sent, please email QRPHelp@swingtech.com and be sure to include your facility name and CMS Certification Number (CCN) along with any requested email updates



[Pause for Prevention Program | HQIN](#)

The Pause for Prevention program is a "free" turnkey program to assist Nursing Homes in ensuring all staff have a basic understanding of infection prevention practices. The Health Quality Innovation Network (HQIN) developed the series of modules as a means of involving all staff who encounter residents (or work in their environment) in infection prevention practices proven to enhance the safety of residents and team members. The program includes 8 modules intended to be interactive and brief (approximately 15 minutes).

- Hand Hygiene
- Cough Etiquette
- Donning/Doffing PPE
- Use of Facial Masks (how to apply, how to remove, how to care for)
- Safety Behaviors Are for Everyone!
- Improving Infection Prevention Precautions for Residents with Impaired Memory
- Caring for Yourself (mental and physical health) During an Outbreak
- Best Practices for Employee Health (i.e., vaccination, sick leave, etc.)

CHC was pleased to have had the opportunity to collaborate with HQI on this initiative. Please note that training materials are designed in an educational manner to facilitate team engagement and are appropriate for use in assisted living. If you have used any of the above resources, we would love your feedback; if you have not yet used these resources, we encourage you to do so.



CMS – Updated Entrance Checklist for SNFs

CMS updated the Entrance Checklist used during surveys; the newest form is dated 6/2021 and contains the following additions: <https://cmscompliancegroup.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Entrance-Conference-Form-06192021.pdf>

- *Immediately Upon Entrance*
 - Name of facility staff responsible for overseeing the COVID-19 vaccination effort

- Within 1 Hour [these included some minor tweaking/incorporation from entrance list used for COVID Focused Surveys]
 - List of key personnel, location, and phone numbers. Note contract staff (e.g., rehab services). Also include the staff responsible for notifying all residents, representatives, and families of confirmed or suspected COVID-19 cases in the facility.
 - The facility's mechanism(s) used to inform residents, their representatives, and families of confirmed or suspected COVID-19 activity in the facility and mitigating actions taken by the facility to prevent or reduce the risk of transmission, including if normal operations in the nursing home will be altered (e.g., supply the newsletter, email, website, etc.). If the system is dependent on the resident or representative to obtain the information themselves (e.g., website), provide the notification/information given to residents, their representatives, and families informing them of how to obtain updates
- *Within 4 Hours of Entrance*
 - Influenza, Pneumococcal, and COVID-19 Immunization Policy & Procedures.
 - Lists of residents and staff and their COVID-19 vaccination status



Diminishing Self-Doubt

It is important to have a healthy awareness of your own limitations. But what should you do when your self-awareness starts to spiral into self-doubt? Here are four strategies to help you restore your confidence:

- Channel an alter ego that can help you gain some perspective. Taking on the persona of someone more confident can help you acknowledge the challenges you face without letting them completely take you over.
- View yourself through the lens of others. How would a friend respond if they heard you being hard on yourself?
- Learn to recognize and ignore unhelpful, uninformed feedback. Recognize that not every opinion is useful.
- Reframe negative self-talk. Identify your internal voices and intentionally replace them with a more positive, productive narrative.



CHC Updates / Reminders

The CHC team has developed/updated the following policies and/or guidelines; if you are interested, please contact Mary at mary@chileshealthcare.com

- Updated COVID 19 Policies/Guidelines – reviewed and updated August 2021 to reflect current CMS, CDC and VDH guidelines: Each individual policy/guideline is \$50; contact Mary for package prices
 - Admission / Re-Admission Guidelines
 - Optimizing The Use Of Personal Protective Equipment During an Infectious Disease Pandemic
 - Management of Hemodialysis Residents Residing in Long Term Care Facilities During COVID-19 Pandemic
 - Compassionate Care Visitation During COVID-19 Pandemic
 - COVID-19 Testing Plan
 - Coronavirus Disease - COVID-19 – Resident Cohorting
 - Notification to State Agencies of Suspected / Confirmed Covid-19 in the Facility
 - Reporting COVID-19 Data to CDC
- SNF – Alcoholic Beverages Consumption / Storage in Nursing Homes -- \$50
- TB Screening for Employees in Nursing Homes; includes policy and screening tools *and* TB Screening for Residents in Nursing Homes– package price of \$75 for both or \$50 individually



Let's Talk Safety – a note from Roy -- rwlifefesafety.com

Nursing Home Bed Safety (Entrapment)

From 1985 to 2009, the FDA received approximately 803 entrapment reports – 480 of which resulted in death. Reports have also identified the most vulnerable population to be the elderly, especially those who are frail, confused, restless and those who do not have full control over their body movements.

Does your facility have an effective and efficient program to reduce the risk of bed entrapments? Your policy and procedure should outline the training, inspection process, and documentation method to show compliance with the guidelines set by the FDA for bed entrapment. **NOTE:**

1. Do you know when a bed is to be tested and retested (intervals and conditions)
2. Did you know that most entrapments occur in zones 1-4.
3. Did you know that bariatric beds do not have to be inspected for entrapment.
4. Did you know that beds that have an air mattress only have to be inspected for zone 1.
5. Do you have a device that is approved for the testing of beds.
 - Is your device the approved weight for testing?
 - Is the diameter correct for testing?
 - Do you have the leveling device for testing zone 4?
 - Are you using a scale pull that shows 12lbs of weight for zone 1 & 2?
6. Do you know how to quickly remedy negative findings?
7. Do you know what the require measurements are for zone 5-7?

Should you need assistant with your Bed Safety Program - Contact - RWL Consulting LLC. rleneave@yahoo.com

