



# THE VOICE

The e-newsletter of National Consumer Voice for Quality Long-Term Care

March 5, 2019

## Senate Hearing on Abuse and Neglect on Wednesday

The United States Senate Committee on Finance is holding a hearing on Wednesday, March 6th at 10:15 am ET - Not Forgotten: Protecting Americans From Abuse and Neglect in Nursing Homes. The hearing will feature statements by Senators Chuck Grassley (R-IA) and Ron Wyden (D-OR); plus two panels of witnesses that will include daughters of residents who suffered from neglect or abuse, representatives from CMS and the Department of Justice, and others. Watch the livestream [here](#).

[Back to Top](#)

## Money Follows the Person Legislation Introduced; National Call-In Day is Tomorrow - Tell Your Congressperson to Fund MFP

Two bills have been introduced to extend the Money Follows the Person (MFP) Program for five years! Called the Empower Care Act, a Senate bill (S. 548) by Senators Portman and Cantwell, and a House Bill (H.R. 1342) by

### In this Issue

[Senate Hearing on Abuse and Neglect on Wednesday](#)

[Money Follows the Person Legislation Introduced; National Call-In Day is Tomorrow - Tell your Congressperson to Fund MFP](#)

[CFPB Analysis Finds that Financial Institutions Report Widespread Elder Financial Exploitation](#)

[NQF Seeking Nominations for Person-Centered Planning Panel](#)

[CMS Memo on Increased Enforcement for Late Adopters](#)

[CMS Updates Data for Hospital 5-Star Rating System](#)

[Spotlight on Resources](#)

Congresspersons Guthrie and Dingell, would continue and improve the program through 2023. Improvements include reducing how long someone must be in a nursing home before becoming eligible to transition from 90 days to 60.

The five year extension is critically important. Congress passed \$112 million funding for the program in January 2019 (H.R. 259), but this money ends in September and could even run out sooner.

As we have previously noted, MFP benefits both long-term care consumers and states. MFP helps individuals with disabilities and seniors who want to move out of nursing homes or other institutions and back into their communities, where they can live independently and experience an improved quality of life. At the same time, it helps states improve access to home and community-based long-term services and supports and save money.

On March 6, join with others across the country to urge Congress to continue funding MFP.

Here's how:

1. Call the Capitol Switchboard at: (202) 224-3121 (voice) or (202) 224-3091(tty) and ask to be connected to your Representative or your Senators. You can use this tool to find your Members of Congress if you don't know who they are: <https://contactingcongress.org/>
2. When you are connected to your Representative or Senator, ask him or her to co-sponsor and support the EMPOWER Care Act. You can use the script [here](#) if it is helpful.
3. Repeat until you've called your Representative and your two Senators.

[Back to Top](#)

## CFPB Analysis Finds that Financial Institutions Report Widespread Elder Financial Exploitation

The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) released a report entitled "Suspicious Activity Reports on Elder Financial

## Calendar of Events

**Wednesday, March 6:** [Not Forgotten: Protecting Americans from Abuse and Neglect in Nursing Homes](#), 10:15am ET, Senate Committee on Finance hearing

**Wednesday, March 6:** National Call to Discuss Hospital 5-Star Rating System, 1:00pm ET, CMS call on [recent announcement](#), Dial-in Number: 1-800-837-1935; Conference ID: 3934159

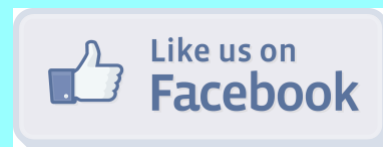
**Tuesday, March 12:** Traumatic Brain Injury Stakeholder Day, Hosted by ACL in Washington, DC, RSVP to [NCAPPS@acl.hhs.gov](mailto:NCAPPS@acl.hhs.gov)

**Tuesday, March 12:** [Dementia Care & Psychotropic Medication Tracking Tool Call](#), 1:30pm ET, Call from the National Partnership to Improve Dementia Care

**May:** [Older Americans Month](#)

**November 3-6, 2019:** Consumer Voice Annual Conference, Crystal Gateway Marriott, Arlington, Virginia

Join the conversation and follow us on social media!



Last Week's Most Popular Post:

**Thursday, February 28:**

[Great news! Two bills have been introduced to extend the Money Follows the Person Program for five years!](#)

Exploitation: Issues and Trends." The report examined 180,000 elder financial exploitation Suspicious Activity Reports (SARs). SARs are filed by financial institutions like banks, credit unions, and casinos when their customers fall prey to financial exploitation. The CFPB's report analyzed SARs filed with the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network from 2013 to 2017. The report found that SAR filings on elder financial exploitation quadrupled from 2013 to 2017. It also found that older adults ages 70 to 79 lost on average \$43,300, and the loss was even greater - about \$50,000 - when the older adult knew the suspect. The report also stated that while financial institutions are increasingly filing elder financial exploitation SARs, they often do not report the activity to adult protective services or law enforcement. For more information and to read the full report, visit CFPB's [website](#).

[Back to Top](#)

## NQF Seeking Nominations for Person-Centered Planning Panel

The National Quality Forum (NQF) is seeking individuals to serve on a multi-stakeholder panel on person-centered care. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) is working with the Administration for Community Living through the NQF to address quality measurement in person-centered planning. Nominations for the panel are due by Friday, March 29th at 6:00pm ET. Over 18 months, NQF will address person-centered planning and practice as part of long-term services and supports systems. For more information about the projects and submitting nominations, visit NQF's [website](#).

[Back to Top](#)

## CMS Memo on Increased Enforcement for Late Adopters

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) have released a memo on increased enforcement of so-called "Late Adopters," facilities who have continued to have poor performance related to the issue of antipsychotic drugs. The memo, "Enhanced Oversight and Enforcement of Non-Improving Late Adopters," states that there are 235 late

follow us on  
**twitter**

### Last Week's Most Popular Tweet:

Thursday, February 28:

["Connect, Create, Contribute" - this year's theme for Older Americans Month in May](#)

### Long-Term Care Resources & News

- [Wellspring is scrambling to find new nursing homes for its 105 residents after its bank account is frozen](#) *Journal Sentinel*, February 27, 2019

**DONATE NOW**

Read past issues of The Voice [here](#).

Support the Consumer Voice While You Shop Online

**amazon**smile  
You shop. Amazon gives.

adopter nursing homes that have been cited two or more times since January 1, 2016 for noncompliance with federal regulations related to unnecessary medications or psychotropic medications and who have not showed improvement. If these facilities are determined not to be in compliance during a survey, they will be subject to enforcement remedies for such noncompliance. Stay tuned for more information on this topic in next week's *Policy Break* (our email update on the latest policy developments - sign up to receive *Policy Break* [here](#)) and read the full memo [here](#).

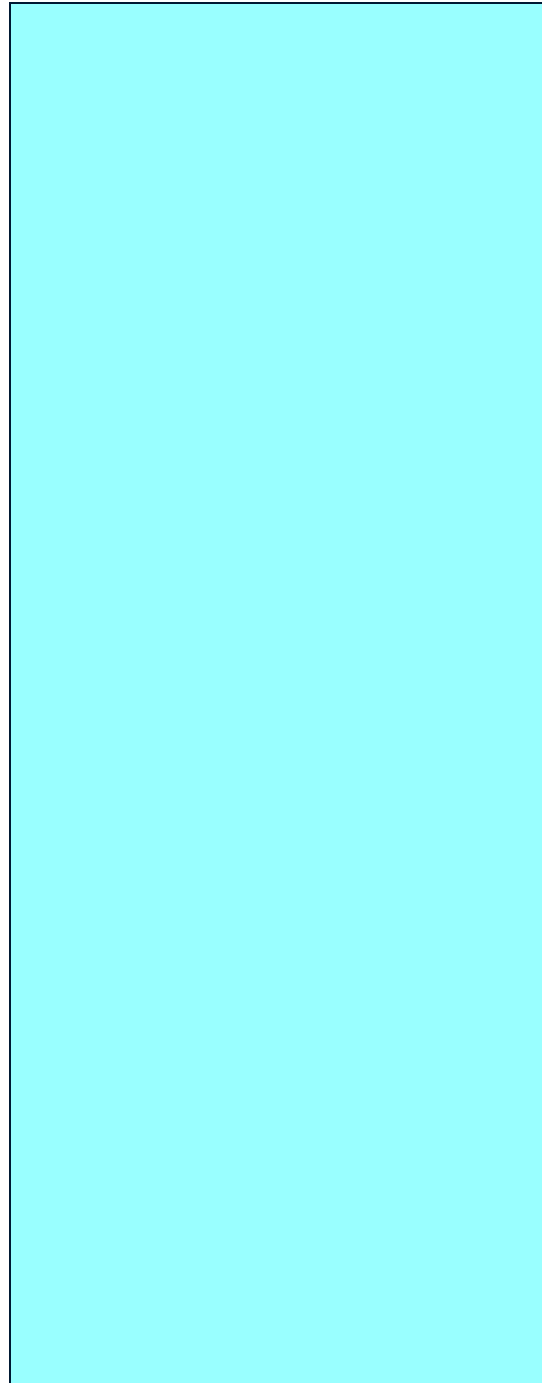
[Back to Top](#)

## CMS Updates Data for Hospital 5-Star Rating System

Last week, CMS announced it had updated hospital performance data on the Hospital Compare website and on [data.medicare.gov](http://data.medicare.gov). The updated data includes specific measures of hospitals' quality of care and the Overall Hospital Star Ratings. CMS also posted potential changes to the Hospital Star Ratings for public comment. Comments on the changes are due March 29th. CMS is holding a call on Wednesday, March 6 at 1:00pm ET to discuss these announcements. It is recommended that you call in 15 minutes prior to the call - 1-800-837-1935; Conference ID: 3934159. For more information about the announcements, read CMS' [press release](#).

[Back to Top](#)

## Spotlight on Resources

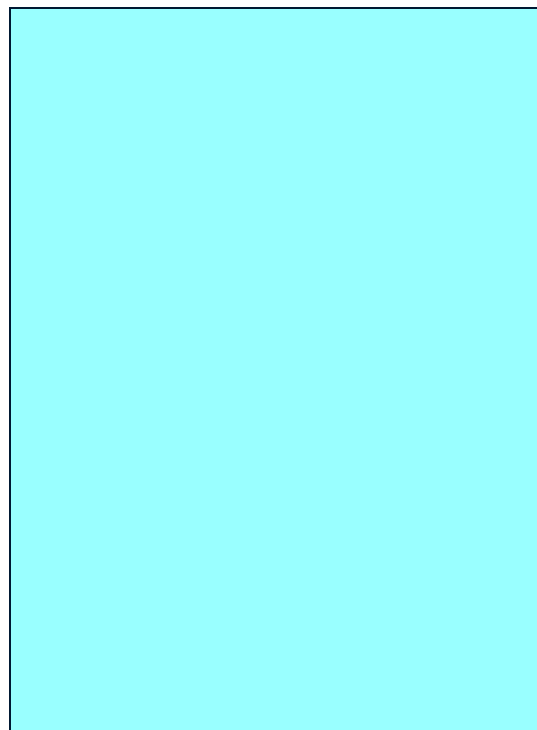




Consumer Voice and the National Ombudsman Resource Center have a multitude of resources available online covering a wide range of long-term care topics. Visit the [Consumer Voice](#) and [NORC websites](#) to explore all the available resources. Check out this week's highlighted resource:

**[Video: Navigating the NORC Website](#)**

[Back to Top](#)



## About The Voice

The Voice is a weekly e-newsletter, published by the National Consumer Voice for Quality Long-Term Care. If you do not wish to continue receiving this publication, please unsubscribe below. Your contributions and comments are welcome and should be sent to [info@theconsumervoice.org](mailto:info@theconsumervoice.org). Copyright © 2019.

If you did not receive The Voice through a subscription, but would like to join our mailing list to receive future issues, click [here](#).

Consumer Voice is the leading national voice representing consumers in issues related to long-term care, helping to ensure that consumers are empowered to advocate for themselves. We are a primary source of information and tools for consumers, families, caregivers, advocates and ombudsmen to help ensure quality care for the individual. Consumer Voice's mission is to represent consumers at the national level for quality long-term care, services and supports.

[Click here to unsubscribe](#)