

LONG TERM CARE COMMUNITY COALITION

Advancing Quality, Dignity & Justice

Two Reports on Nursing Home Care ID Widespread “Chronic Deficiencies” & Need to Improve Detection of Resident Harm

Thirty years after President Reagan signed the Nursing Home Reform Act, a “wake-up call” on the need to strengthen efforts to achieve the Act’s promise of safety & dignity

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New York, NY, February 28, 2017—The Long Term Care Community Coalition (LTCCC) announced today publication of two reports on quality of care in our nation’s nursing homes. “Approximately 40% of people who reach age 65 will need nursing home care at some point,” said Richard Mollot, LTCCC’s executive director, “American seniors and their families must be able to count on the nursing homes in their communities to provide safety and decent care with dignity. None of us deserve any less.”

Report #1. *Chronic Deficiencies in Care: The Persistence of Recurring Failures to Meet Minimum Safety & Dignity Standards in U.S. Nursing Homes* accompanies publication of the names of over 6,000 U.S. nursing homes with what LTCCC identifies as “chronic deficiencies” -- three or more citations for the same health or safety standard in a three-year period. The report is based on an analysis of three years’ of data posted on Nursing Home Compare and collected in the fall of 2016.

“Thirty years after President Reagan signed the 1987 Nursing Home Reform Act, we must continue to build on that Act’s promise of decent care and life with dignity,” Mollot said, “Though conditions have improved since 1987, we believe that these data indicate that more needs to be done to ensure the safety of people with dementia and others who depend on nursing home care, and the peace of mind of American families.”

“Current congressional and administration actions to repeal regulations and radically change the Medicaid program critically threaten longstanding nursing home protections,” Mollot said.

Communities throughout the country are home to nursing homes with chronic deficiencies in care. To facilitate the usefulness of the nursing home data, LTCCC is posting it in a variety of forms. Files for individual states provide a searchable list of every nursing home that has three or more deficiencies for the same minimum standard on NH Compare as of September 2016. For each of these facilities, we provide a short description of the regulatory requirement, the scope and severity of the violation and other relevant information.

Report #2. *The Identification of Resident Harm in Nursing Home Deficiencies: Observations & Insights* assesses the extent to which resident harm is identified when facilities are cited for violating minimum care standards. “Our findings indicate that resident harm is identified in less than 5% of citations for violations of minimum care standards,” Mollot said, “**Even for nursing homes that had the lowest possible star rating (1-star), surveyors only identified resident harm in less than half of the facilities.**”

The report provides information on the identification of resident harm in respect to a variety of key indicators, including a facility’s star rating, staffing and number of substantiated complaints.

Both reports are available at www.nursinghome411.org.