

STATE OF WISCONSIN
 Department of Health and Family Services
 Division of Long Term Care

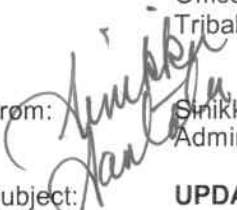
DLTC Info Memo Series 2007-06
Date: May 4, 2007

Index Title: UPDATE - Nursing Home Recognition for Performance (R4P) Quality Initiative

To: Listserv

For: Nursing Homes
 Nursing Home Associations
 Board on Aging and Long Term Care
 Disability Rights Wisconsin

cc: Aging and Disability Resource Centers
 Area Administrators / Human Services Area Coordinators
 Area Agencies on Aging
 County Aging Units / Directors
 County COP Coordinators
 County Department of Community Program Directors
 County Departments of Developmental Disabilities Services Directors
 County Departments of Human Services Directors
 County Departments of Social Services Directors
 County Waiver Coordinators
 County DD Coordinators
 Division of Health Care Financing
 Family Care CMO Directors
 Independent Living Centers
 MetaStart
 Division of Quality Assurance
 Office of Policy Initiatives and Budget
 Tribal Chairpersons

From:  Shrikka Santala
 Administrator

Subject: **UPDATE** - Nursing Home Recognition for Performance (R4P) Quality Initiative

Introduction

This memo informs all stakeholders of a change in course regarding the Department's 2007 Nursing Home Recognition for Performance (R4P) Quality Initiative, announced on December 8, 2006, via DDES Info Memo 2006-21.

Background and Explanation

Department of Health and Family Services (DHFS), remains committed to improving the quality of Wisconsin nursing homes by measuring, recognizing and rewarding performance. In keeping with this commitment, the Department has decided to delay implementation of its nursing home performance measurement and quality recognition effort in order to develop and fund a more robust and sophisticated

quality measurement system, targeting the state's '09-'11 biennium. Therefore, the DHFS 2007 Nursing Home Recognition for Performance Quality Initiative has been withdrawn.

There are many reasons for this change in course. The science of quality measurement for nursing homes is maturing rapidly. It requires scientific, validated data capture and analysis the Department does not possess at this time.

We acknowledge and agree with all of the stakeholders that nursing home quality measurement must be of high integrity, valid and credible. There is much we can learn from the nursing home quality measurement work being done by CMS, multiple other states, and the private sector. It is our intention to collaborate with Wisconsin stakeholders to design a nursing home quality measurement system that has broad based support.

Summary

The Department's commitment to improving the quality of care and the quality of life for Wisconsin's nursing home residents is strong; a commitment we know we share with all of you, our partners in the complex undertaking of measuring performance and recognizing quality. We look forward to continuing our work with all of you in order to realize the benefits of the Department's nursing home quality initiative.

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