



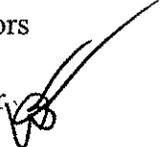
STATE OF MARYLAND
DHMH

Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
Office of Health Care Quality
Spring Grove Center • Bland Bryant Building
55 Wade Avenue • Catonsville, Maryland 21228-4663

Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., Governor – Michael S. Steele, Lt. Governor – S. Anthony McCann, Secretary

July 5, 2006

To: Nursing Home Administrators

From: Wendy Kronmiller, Director, 

RE: Improvement of Pressure Ulcer Rates

Currently we are being encouraged by Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to reduce the pressure ulcer rates in our state. In order to do so, we would like to collect data which we believe will be extremely helpful for our performance improvement efforts. This data currently cannot be extracted from MDS data. In an effort to gather this information regarding pressure ulcers in the State of Maryland, we are requesting that you complete the enclosed form each month for the next six months. At the end of this period of time, before January 10, 2007, please send your completed forms to this office. **Please be assured that this information is being acquired for educational purposes by the OHCQ, Technical Assistance Unit (TAU) and will not be used for regulatory purposes nor will it be shared with the regulatory components of OHCQ. Your facility's identity will remain anonymous for any reports generated from this information.**

We hope you also find this form helpful to you in your quality improvement program. Being aware of prevalence and incidence rates enables you to proceed with your trending and root cause analyses at the resident level. If necessary, during your next Quality Assurance survey, TAU surveyors will assist you in utilizing the information to develop a plan of action based upon your data.

We are encouraging nursing facilities to develop a solid system for root cause analysis. Reducing pressure ulcers can only be accomplished through diligent efforts to identify the root causes at the resident level, then trending to identify any systems problems, and then making appropriate changes to the systems and monitoring again to determine success or develop alternate interventions.



In this regard, please note resources offered on the Maryland Patient Safety Center website: www.marylandpatientsafety.org. The website offers frequent training on Root Cause Analysis and I encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity.

If you have any questions please contact Linda Masterson at 410-402-8008 or your TAU surveyor.

cc:

Tim Hock

Paul Velez

Wendy Gary

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