



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

Martin O'Malley, Governor – Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor – Joshua M. Sharfstein, M.D., Secretary

DATE: January 10, 2013

TO: Nursing Home Administrators

FROM: Margie Heald, Deputy Director for Federal Programs

Patricia Tomsko Nay, MD, CMD, CHCQM, FAAFP, FAIHQ, FAAHPM
Medical Director and Acting Director, Office of Health Care Quality

RE: Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' *Hand in Hand* Training Series

Section 6121 of the Affordable Care Act of 2010 requires the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to ensure that nurse aides receive regular training on caring for residents with dementia and abuse prevention. All Medicare and/or Medicaid certified nursing homes will receive, by mail, a high-quality training program, *Hand in Hand*. The program utilizes a person-centered care approach that emphasizes the role of caregivers. This training tool kit includes six instruction modules supported by instructor guides and six one-hour video modules.

The Office of Health Care Quality endorses the use of CMS' *Hand in Hand*, though we recognize that many facilities have already established training programs in these areas. Use of the *Hand in Hand* training program is voluntary. It can be used to supplement a facility's current training. *Hand in Hand* meets portions of the State requirements for training on cognitive impairment that is required for new employees and annually for specified staff in COMAR 10.07.02.08.

If your facility fails to receive the *Hand in Hand* training program from CMS by the end of January 2013, please contact margie.heald@maryland.gov.

