



Advancing Excellence in America's Nursing Homes

Excellent Ideas

INTEGRATING PARTICIPATION IN THE ADVANCING EXCELLENCE CAMPAIGN INTO YOUR QAPI EFFORTS

With a growing number of priorities in long-term care, and a supply of resources that seems to diminish daily, it is imperative to “work smarter, not harder.” Doing this can be as simple as finding ways to streamline systems to prevent duplication of staff efforts.

Drawing from “the Five Elements of QAPI,” listed below are suggestions on combining your facility’s participation in the [Advancing Excellence](#) campaign with Quality Assurance – Performance Improvement (QAPI).*

Element 1: Design and Scope

QAPI must be ongoing and comprehensive. While focus on your Advancing Excellence (AE) goals may be heightened at first, design your team and action plans with a long-term, sustainable goal in mind. Use the best available evidence and resources to design your plan. At your QAPI meetings, add Advancing Excellence as an agenda item and have the teams provide an update.

Element 2: Governance and Leadership

As the leader, inform key stakeholders of your commitment to the selected AE goals and work to ensure appropriate resources and support. Form a team with consideration of the purpose of the team and the type of members needed for that purpose. Include residents and direct care staff when possible, in order to generate valuable input from key perspectives, and to obtain ongoing commitment to quality improvements.

Element 3: Feedback, Data Systems and Monitoring

Ensure that systems are in place to monitor your goals. The [AE website](#) provides the data tracking tools relevant to each goal that assist with data collection and monitoring. When reviewing data, it is important to discuss and investigate outliers and areas of concern.

Element 4: Performance Improvement Projects (PIPs)

Selection of your AE goals is essentially the start of at least two PIPs for your facility. Assemble a designated team to work on each goal; make sure team members have the ability to make and sustain improvements in care.

Element 5: Systemic Analysis and Systemic Action

Use your team’s current improvement or problem-solving model to develop goals and action steps for your AE goals. It is important that your problem-solving model includes a root cause analysis for appropriately identifying the problem before developing solutions.

*CMS. The 5 Elements of QAPI. Available at: www.cms.gov/Medicare/Provider-Enrollment-and-Certification/SurveyCertificationGenInfo/Downloads/fiveelementsqapi.pdf. Accessed February 5, 2013.

Read more about “The Five Elements of QAPI” and where to learn more about pending regulatory changes: www.cms.gov/Medicare/Provider-Enrollment-and-Certification/SurveyCertificationGenInfo/QAPI.html

All material presented or referenced herein is intended for general informational purposes and is not intended to provide or replace the independent judgment of a qualified healthcare provider treating a particular patient. Ohio KePRO disclaims any representation or warranty with respect to any treatments or course of treatment based upon information provided. Publication No. 311203-OH-1573-03/2013. This material was prepared by Ohio KePRO, the Medicare Quality Improvement Organization for Ohio, under contract with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The contents presented do not necessarily reflect CMS policy.