

Quality Senior Care in Michigan

Caring for more than 40,000 Michiganders each day, skilled nursing and rehabilitation centers fill a unique and integral role in our health care system and in our communities. Not only do centers provide quality care, but they also employ approximately 50,000 of your neighbors, friends and family.

This holiday season, the Health Care Association of Michigan (HCAM) invites you to discover today's skilled nursing and rehabilitation center. Come see for yourself the quality care we are providing every day. The residents would love the company and volunteers are always appreciated.

Skilled nursing and rehabilitation centers are an essential piece of our health care safety net. They are the most widely used post-hospital setting of care for Medicare beneficiaries. Strong rehabilitation departments help people recover from accidents or health difficulties and return to their home. They also care for the more medically complex, functionally limited and cognitively impaired frail elderly that require longer term care.

Quality care is the main focus for skilled nursing and rehabilitation centers and throughout the state they are participating in quality improvement programs. For example, in 2011, a growing number of Michigan skilled nursing and rehabilitation centers received national quality awards and are participating in the national Advancing Excellence in America's Nursing Home program. HCAM has also created its own training program on quality improvement – the Quality First Initiative Series – that is a model for other states.

The federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) collects, tracks and reports information on quality measures by individual center, by state and nationally. This helps centers compare their progress with other facilities in Michigan and around the country. We know quality is improving because it is being closely monitored and reported. Nursing centers' commitment to quality improvement is paying off with positive trends in specific quality measures and improved patient outcomes.

Approximately once a year, all nursing centers receive an unannounced visit by a team of state surveyors. When a deficiency is cited, the state requires the facility to develop a plan of correction and then the survey team reviews, approves and monitors implementation of these plans.

Michigan's biggest challenges in long-term care lie ahead as 10,000 baby boomers across the U.S. turn 65 every day. There will be an increase in demand for all forms of long term care including skilled nursing and rehabilitation centers. We all should focus on how we can maintain and improve quality while preparing for the unprecedented demand for supports and services in the years and decades ahead.

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