

Nursing Home Quality Assurance and Performance Improvement (QAPI) Update

The provisions set forth at Section 6102 (c) of the Affordable Care Act have provided the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) with the opportunity to mobilize some of the best practices in nursing home quality assurance and program improvement and to identify technical assistance needs in advance of a new QAPI regulation. CMS' QAPI initiative is currently in the first year of a two-year demonstration project and as reported in a stakeholder's meeting in September, 16 out of 17 participating facilities have already made progress in internal quality improvement leading to effective processes, best practices and positive outcomes.

Phase I of the rollout has begun with the enhanced QAPI website under development and soon to be released. This new website will contain guidelines for getting started, assessment tools, quality improvement worksheets, videos and resources. CMS has not yet released a target date for the proposed QAPI rule. It has been reported that they are going to determine how the process will work first, and then write the regulation. The current [QAPI website](#) contains background material, including information about the five essential elements of QAPI and the latest news on the project.

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