



State of Wisconsin
Department of Health Services

Jim Doyle, Governor
Karen E. Timberlake, Secretary

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For Immediate Release

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Wisconsin Nursing Homes Encouraged to Sign Up for Federal Demonstration Project

Initiative Will Focus on Lowering Medicare Costs Through Improved Care

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) is encouraging nursing homes across the state to apply to participate in a new national demonstration project designed to improve care and quality of life for residents of nursing homes, as well as reduce Medicare costs. Participating nursing homes will be eligible to receive financial rewards by avoiding hospitalizations due to improved care.

One hundred Wisconsin nursing homes will be chosen on a voluntary basis to participate in the demonstration project. Interested nursing homes can find more information and applications forms at www.nhvbp.com. The deadline to apply is May 1st.

“The decision of the federal government to include Wisconsin in this new initiative is just another indication that our state is seen as a national leader in the area of health care reform,” said DHS Secretary Karen Timberlake. “This demonstration project focuses on nursing home practices that increase quality of care and reduce costs by avoiding more expensive procedures. Nursing home pay-for-performance initiatives like this demonstration project could be a key component in our continual efforts to improve quality for residents and reduce health care costs.”

The demonstration project will measure quality performance in a number of clinical areas, as well as measure staffing ratios, which have been correlated with better clinical outcomes for residents and higher satisfaction levels among residents and their families. By improving quality performance in these areas, fewer residents will require episodes of care in hospitals, which will in turn save Medicare dollars. These Medicare savings will be paid out to demonstration nursing homes with fewer hospital days when compared to other like nursing homes that are not part of the demonstration.

Four states were chosen to participate in the demonstration project: Arizona, Mississippi, New York and Wisconsin.

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