New England Nursing Home Quality Care Collaborative News

What I Need to Know Newsletter | June 2019

June is Alzheimer's and Brain Awareness Month

Learn the ten signs of Alzheimer's Disease:

Memory loss that disrupts daily life may be a symptom of Alzheimer's or other types of dementia. (To learn about other types of dementia click here.)

Alzheimer's is a brain disease that causes a slow decline in memory, thinking and reasoning skills. There are 10 warning signs and symptoms. If you notice any of them, don't ignore them. Schedule an appointment with your doctor.

1. One of the most common signs of Alzheimer's disease, especially in the early stage, is forgetting recently learned information. Others include forgetting important dates or events, asking for the same information over and over, and increasingly needing to rely on memory aids (e.g., reminder notes or electronic devices) or family members for things they used to handle on their own.

Read more...

National Safety Month

The National Safety Council (NSC) leads targeted efforts on saving lives and preventing injuries, including raising public awareness of the opioid epidemic, helping to reduce motor vehicle crashes and improving safety practices in workplaces across the country. NSC's injury facts show that every three minutes someone in the United States dies from a preventable injury or "accident." In 2016 preventable injury claimed an unprecedented 161,374 lives and was the third leading cause of death, surpassed only by heart disease and cancer.

Read more...

Men's Health Month

Upcoming Events

EDUCATIONAL SERIES:
Ask the Experts Call
06/11
11am - 12pm
REGISTER NOW

Men's Health is observed nationally for the month of June and worldwide for the week of June 10th-16th. Both observances are intended to increase awareness around Men's Health and to encourage men to make healthy lifestyle decisions and discuss health concerns with their providers. On average, men die five years younger than women, and die at higher rates from 9 of the top 10 causes of death (health.gov).

Here are a few steps recommended by the CDC for men to lead a healthy lifestyle:

- Schedule regular check-ups: Here is a check-up check-list from the CDC that providers can give their patient to review right before their next scheduled check-up
- Include physical activity/exercise: Here are the CDC guideline for physical activity
- Eat Healthy: Include fruits and vegetables in your diet, eating a well-balanced diet will help with weight control and may reduce risk of certain types of cancer and chronic diseases. Here is a dietary recommendation from the CDC
- Tobacco cessation: Here are CDC facts about benefits of tobacco cessation that clinicians can use while counseling their patients about tobacco use
- Read More...

LGBT Health Highlight for Pride Month

By Timothy Wang, MPH Senior Policy Analyst and
Sean Cahill, PhD Director of Health Policy Research at
The Fenway Health Institute.

Happy LGBT Pride Month! The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) community is generally healthy, vibrant, and resilient. However, as with many populations, LGBT health disparities still exist. **Anti-LGBT discrimination** is all too common in healthcare settings, and **acts as a barrier to healthcare access**.

Many professional health organizations, such as the Joint Commission, and federal agencies, including CMS, have recognized the need for addressing LGBT health disparities. There are several **strategies that you can take** to ensure that your healthcare organization is a safe and affirming environment for LGBT patients. Consider training staff in LGBT cultural competency, collecting sexual orientation and gender identity data from patients, include sexual orientation and gender identity in nondiscrimination policies, and include representation of LGBT people in your promotional and educational materials.
Read More...

Quality Measure Update

CMS has been making some changes to the quality measures that are posted on Nursing Home Compare, and/or in CASPER Reports.

The Long-Stay High-Risk Pressure Ulcer Quality Measure is in transition. Currently on your CASPER Reports, you will see two long-stay Pressure ulcer QMs: They are listed as follows:

- **Hi-Risk Pressure Ulcer (L) N015.01**
- **Hi-Risk/Unstageable Pressure Ulcer (L) N015.02**

On the resident level listing report, you will see separate columns for each of these two measures. The names of residents who trigger for the Hi Risk Pressure Ulcer QM are residents without an Unstageable pressure ulcer. The residents who trigger for the Hi Risk / Unstageable Pressure Ulcer QM are residents who have either an Unstageable pressure ulcer, a stage 2, 3, or 4 pressure ulcer or both.

The overlap therefore identifies those residents who DO have an Unstageable pressure ulcer. CMS plans to eliminate the QM N015.01 in the coming months.

WEBINAR: How the Trauma-Informed Approach Can Help Treat Substance Use Disorders
06/26
1pm - 2pm
REGISTER NOW

Past Events

WEBINAR: New England Outpatient Antibiotic Stewardship Showcase
05/23
DOWNLOAD PRESENTATION

WEBINAR: Advanced Educational Series: Diagnostic Stewardship/UTI Evaluation
05/14
11am - 12pm
DOWNLOAD PRESENTATION

WEBINAR: How the Trauma Informed Approach can help treat Substance Use Disorder
3/28
VIEW RECORDING

In the meantime, CMS changed the QM that affects your Five-Star Quality Measure Rating **to include the QM N015.02** and **eliminated reporting of N015.01** from the Five-Star Quality Measure rating and from Nursing Home Compare.

Helpful Tips & Resources

State RAI Coordinator

Do you know how to reach your State's CMS RAI Coordinator?
The most recent listing of State RAI Coordinators is provided in the Appendix B of the RAI Manual. In May, CMS released an early version of the RAI Manual v1.17 October 1,2019 – and it has many updates including information related PDPM.

Read more...

New BFCC-QIO:
Action Required by Providers

CMS has made changes to the regional coverage by the Beneficiary and Family Centered Care Quality Improvement Organizations (BFCC-QIOs). The BFCC-QIO in **all six New England states** was previously Livanta but will now be covered by KEPRO effective June 8, 2019. **Providers** in these states **need to update their Appeals Notices, Memorandums of Agreement, and Provider Update Forms**. Read More...

You're Invited to Join the Learning Center!

We know that education is a key strategy to maintaining quality and improving outcomes. Our online education system, The Learning Center, provides a selection of educational materials and resources to all healthcare providers at NO cost, available 24/7 from any device.

Visit http://learning4quality.org to access materials, or create an account if you do not currently have one.

Thank you for Sharing Your Success!

The New England Nursing Home Quality Care Collaborative Awards

Congratulations to *the* ***New England Nursing Home Quality Care Collaborative Award*** winners! These teams actively participated in the Collaborative attending webinars and other learning programs related to their quality goals. They implemented performance improvement projects (PIPs) as part of their QAPI programs and shared their success stories which can be found here. In addition, Gold awards were given to participants who achieved a composite score of 6.0 or below and earned and maintained a percentage at or below the state average for the long-stay antipsychotic medication quality measure. Check our Facebook page throughout the month of June as we share photos and continue to celebrate the Collaborative Award winners.

Here are some of the award winners receiving their plaques:

The New England QIN-QIO's Ileizy Victor (left) presented Apple Valley Center's Collaborative Award to Libby

Aymsley Mahoney proudly accepted Alliance Health at Braintree's Collaborative Award from New England QIN-QIO team member Joshua Bernard.

Haidemenos (right).

The team at Belmont Manor were excited to receive their award from the New England QIN-QIO, presented to them by Joshua Bernard.

PFAC Highlight

Meet Elsie from Massachusetts

Why did you want to join the New England QIN-QIO Patient & Family Advisory Council (PFAC)?

I have 40 years of vast experience in the healthcare field, specifically working with patients and families in hospitals, the mentally and physically challenged client settings, and the community public health medical field. I am a retired Assistant Director of Health Services from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts NRS, Department of Developmental Services, and I'm currently involved in the East ethnic community as a leader for the South Indian Community of the New England region.

What types of projects/activities have you been working on as a PFAC member?

As a New England QIN-QIO PFAC advisor, I participate on the Safe Discharge Planning work group where I review and provide feedback on the tools and educational materials created by New England QIN-QIO.
I enjoy attending all monthly meetings in-person and actively participating in the group discussions. I'm looking forward to this month's PFAC regional meeting where I will be presenting to the group on my recent trip to India for charity purposes.

What do you like about the projects/activities you are working on or have been involved with? How do you feel you are making an impact?

I enjoy helping the organization develop patient-focused educational materials, especially those that encourage shared decision making. I understand the current healthcare scenario including the key issues and concerns and focus on improvement, so I feel the knowledge and insight I contribute to the group helps in developing meaningful patient education materials.