



Great Plains Quality Care Coalition
 Nursing Home E-News: **Nuts & Bolts**
Better Together
 October 2021 | Issue 21

New Additions to the Quality Measure Video Series

Great Plains QIN has a [Quality Measure Video Series and Tip Sheets](#) designed for those involved with MDS coding, quality improvement and leadership.

Each video is approximately 20 to 30 minutes in length and includes the recording, slide deck, transcript and tip sheet.

**New videos and tip sheets added monthly.*

- ✓ Made Improvement in Function (SS) – **Coming soon!**
- ✓ ADL's Has Increased (LS) – **New!**
- ✓ Ability to Move Independently Worsens (LS)– **New!**
- ✓ High Risk Pressure Ulcer (LS)
- ✓ Urinary Tract Infection
- ✓ Catheter Left in Bladder
- ✓ Antipsychotic Medication
- ✓ Long Stay Falls with Major Injury (LS)
- ✓ Pneumococcal Vaccination
- ✓ Influenza Vaccination
- ✓ Nursing Home CASPER QM Report

Education and Resources

[Visit our GPQIN Event Calendar](#) to access upcoming and past events.

The Pharmacist: An Invaluable Community Resource Webinar
 Hosted by Great Plains QIN
Tuesday, 10/19/2021
3:00 - 4:00 pm CT
[Registration and details](#)

[Great Plains QIN Nursing Home Quality Webpage](#) has many resources organized by topic including past Nuts & Bolts Newsletters and Quality Measure Video Series.

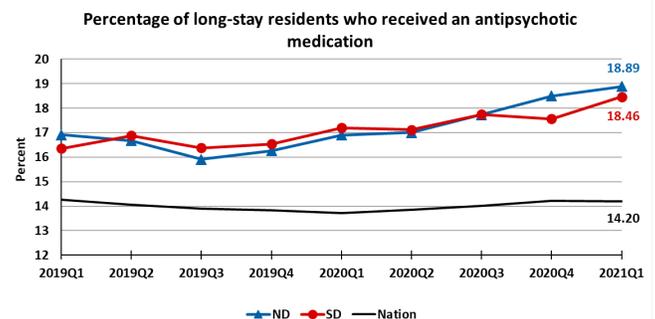
CMS [Nursing Home Resource Center](#) serves as a centralized hub with the latest information and guidance.

Antipsychotic Medication Rates Escalate in North Dakota & South Dakota Nursing Homes During Pandemic

Efforts to reduce unnecessary antipsychotic medications among nursing home residents has been going on for several years and overall, there has been progress throughout the entire United States; however, progress that was made amongst nursing homes in North Dakota and South Dakota appear to be slipping when compared nationally.

At the end of 2021 Quarter 1, North Dakota's antipsychotic medication facility rate increased to 18.89% and South Dakota's rate increased to

18.46%. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the national average essentially sustained its rate at around 14.2%. Graph data compiled by Great Plains QIN from MDS quality measure datasets ending 2021Q4.



[CMS Toolkit on State Actions to Mitigate COVID-19 Prevalence in Nursing Homes.](#)

[The National Partnership – Dementia Care Resources](#)

[CMS Targeted COVID-19 Training for Frontline Nursing Staff and Management:](#) Scenario-based trainings available on-demand online. 5 modules for frontline staff and 10 modules for management. Site updated to include user guide and Kudos Kit.

CMS Five Star Rating | Quality Measure Quick Resource Links
[Five Star Quality Rating | CMS Care Compare | CMS Quality Measures | CMS SNF QRP | CMS SNF VBP | CMS MDS 3.0 RAI Manual | CMS](#)

October is Resident Right's Month
[Free Consumer Voice Promotional Materials](#)

- [Residents' Rights Month Activity Calendar - October 2021](#)
- ["Right to have fun" Drive](#)
- [Staying Connected - Activity ideas when visitation is limited](#)
- [Resident Rights YouTube Video](#)
- [More Suggestions \(National Consumer Voice\)](#)

To further put this rise in antipsychotic medication rates in perspective; at the end of 2020, South Dakota was ranked #41 and North Dakota ranked #46. Wyoming came in at #50 with a 20% antipsychotic medication facility rate. Hawaii was #1 for having the lowest rate in the nation at 8.5%. Access public data:

- [CMS National Partnership to Improve Dementia Care in Nursing Homes \(main website\)](#)
- [Antipsychotic Medication Use Data Report by State 2020Q4-Updated 7 30 2021](#)
- [Antipsychotic Use by Every NH in nation 2020Q1-2020Q4-Updated 7 30 2021](#)

The antipsychotic medication long stay quality measure is part of the CMS Five Star Quality Rating System. **What is your facility rate?** If your facility has an antipsychotic medication rate over 15%, it is highly likely an opportunity exists to make improvements. To be clear, it is not the expectation that North Dakota and South Dakota have a zero antipsychotic medication rate as there are incidences when antipsychotic medications are needed and appropriate. In addition, it is acknowledged that some facilities will have a higher antipsychotic medication usage based on demographics and the residents they care for. **With that being said, are the Dakotas that much different from many states that have made significant progress toward antipsychotic medication reduction?** Many of the nursing homes in the Great Plains Quality Care Coalition have a small census so reducing the medication by two or three residents would result in considerable improvement in this quality measure rate and contribute overall to both states' antipsychotic medication reduction efforts.

The [National Partnership Dementia Care Website](#) has many resources to assist with reducing the use of antipsychotic medications and strategies to provide quality care to those living with dementia. Additionally, Great Plains QIN has several resources on the [Nursing Home Quality Initiative/Antipsychotic Medication section.](#)

? Pneumococcal Vaccination Quality Measure Q&A

Q: *On admission, we address whether the individual wants the pneumococcal vaccine or not. If they do and have not received it yet, what is my best option to code? Currently, my options are 1. not eligible 2. offered and declined and 3. not offered. I wish there were more options to choose from; I have been coding as 'not offered' since they do want it but have not received yet. What do you think is the best coding option?*

A: If you cannot administer the pneumococcal vaccination by midnight of the Assessment Reference Date, code 3 (not offered).

Best Practice Tips for Pneumococcal Vaccinations and the Quality Measure

1. Implement processes that pneumococcal vaccinations can be provided in your facility, OR
2. If you do not have the vaccination in your facility, schedule your local provider/pharmacy to do a pneumococcal vaccination clinic in your facility. This would be helpful if you have several residents that have not received the vaccination and want to receive it. You can then code as vaccination 'being up to date' on the following MDS Assessment.
3. View the [Great Plains QIN Pneumococcal Vaccination Quality Measure Video & Coding Tip Sheet](#) to gain better understanding of this quality measure.
4. Know your facility pneumococcal vaccination rate - the facility goal should be 100% of residents were assessed. Search for your facility on [Medicare Care Compare](#). Look under the quality of resident care section (the pneumococcal QM rate is under both Short Stay and Long Stay sections)
5. Even if the resident declines or it is contraindicated, the pneumococcal vaccination meets the requirement of being assessed; it will not count against the facility rate.

CDC Interim Guidance for Influenza Immunizations During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Vaccinations for respiratory illnesses reduce the impact and resulting burdens on the health care system during the COVID-19 public health emergency. The CDC recommends that patients in post-acute care facilities get the flu vaccine during the COVID-19 pandemic. However, it is recommended that immunization/vaccination should be postponed for asymptomatic and pre-symptomatic persons who have tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 **UNTIL** criteria have been met for them to discontinue isolation **AND** until the person is no longer moderately to severely ill.

- [CDC Interim Guidance for Routine & Influenza Immunization Services During COVID-19 Pandemic](#)
- [CMS: Enforcement Discretion Relating to Certain Pharmacy Billing](#)

TytoCare™ Improving Patient Experience and Health Outcomes

Reprinted from Great Plains QIN QInsider, September 13, 2021, Vol 2, Issue 9

A health system and nursing home in Beulah, ND, use the TytoCare™ Medical Exam Kit to reduce exposure to COVID-19 while maintaining access to care. Concerned about the significant decline in routine and preventive care, [Coal Country Community Health Center](#) and [Knife River Care Center](#) looked to telehealth services and corresponding equipment as a solution.

“We began using the TytoCare device in April 2021,” explained Deb Kasanke, director of nursing at Coal Country Community Health Center. “We were looking to keep patient access at outlying clinics during the COVID-19 pandemic in the case of healthcare worker shortage or quarantine.”

The Great Plains Quality Innovation Network (QIN) helped facilitate conversations in both organizations to implement the telehealth enhancement. “Obtaining high quality and safe care from the comfort of home is a true benefit for this rural community,” shared Natasha Green, MBA, BSN, quality improvement advisor for the Great Plains QIN. “TytoCare is designed for all types of remote use and is easy to access. All that is needed is the TytoApp, a smartphone or tablet, and a Wi-Fi connection.”



The kit provides the healthcare provider with high-quality digital sounds of the heart and lungs; high-quality digital images and video of the ears, throat, and skin; as well as heart rate and body temperature. Using this examination data, the provider can determine a diagnosis, treatment plan, and necessary prescriptions.

Sanders continued, “This option of telehealth reduces stress for our residents and wait times for visits. Providers are often relieved when they ‘see’ a resident or patient using the Tyto system, rather than have to report and then wait for a clinic visit or, sometimes, an unnecessary emergency room (ER) visit.”

“Our staff were very receptive and excited to have access to this telehealth option and the ability to offer a full assessment, via a remote visit. At this time, our health center utilizes this telehealth option at least weekly,” Kasanke added.



Advice From a Person with Memory Loss

Submitted by Alzheimer’s Association of Minnesota/North Dakota and South Dakota



- ❖ Don’t hurry me. Hurrying me tends to make me forget and then I tend to get confused.
- ❖ If I forget something, remind me gently. If I seem to forget that you already answered a question I ask, help me realize that it is okay and that everyone forgets.
- ❖ Do not keep asking questions. This frustrates me and makes me feel like I am being tested.
- ❖ When I forget, either laugh with me or hug me, but please do not try to make excuses for me. When you do that, it makes me angry, and I feel that you do not understand what I am feeling inside.
- ❖ When I say, “I don’t know how to turn the tv on,” etc., just come and help me. No words are needed, and chances are, tomorrow I will be able to do it on my own. When I tell you something “dumb” that I did, please listen, and try to understand that what I am really trying to tell you is that I am scared and hurting. I need to be loved and given time to talk about what is happening to me.
- ❖ When I am silent and unable to sleep, chances are that I am struggling with my own fears about how this is going to hurt you as time goes on. I am asking myself what is going to happen to me?
- ❖ Try to understand that some days I almost convince myself that there is nothing wrong with me and then there are days when I have no doubt that my head is not working normally. These latter days are the ones when you are most apt to find me down in spirit.
- ❖ Try to understand that I am really finding it difficult to believe that this is really happening to me. The big questions “why?” and “how long?” keep going in my head.

The [Alzheimer's Association](https://www.alz.org) is a worldwide health organization dedicated to Alzheimer’s care, support, and research. Its mission is to lead the way to end Alzheimer's and all other dementia — by accelerating global research, driving risk reduction and early detection, and maximizing quality care and support. More information is available at [alz.org](https://www.alz.org) or the 24/7 Helpline: 800.272.3900.

COVID-19 Articles, Webinars and Studies

- [AHA Addressing COVID19 Vaccine Hesitancy in Your Community - on demand video](#)
- [OSHA webinar on COVID-19 Emergency Temporary Standard – 50 minutes **GOOD OVERVIEW!**](#)
- [CDC NIOSH Respiratory Protection Week \(how to tell if your N95 Respirator is NIOSH Approved\)](#)
- [CIRE COVID-19 Webinar Series \(NDSU, Center for Immunization Research and Education\)](#)
 - [Dr. Carson LTC Briefing - Delta and Vaccines - 9/7/2021 - 1hr 23min](#)
- [McKnight's 9/22/2021 Alicia Lasek: Exceedingly difficult to control COVID inside facilities when virus rages outside](#)



News, Updates, Tips

NHSN LTCF Quick Links

- [Vaccination Weekly HCP & Resident COVID-19 Module – **NEWLY Posted!** August 2021 training slide set, updated data collection forms](#)
- [COVID-19 LTCF Module Main Webpage](#)
- [Data Quality Alerts: Weekly COVID-19 Vaccination Modules](#)
- [Data Quality Alerts: COVID19 Pathways Module.](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions: COVID-19 Data Document](#)
- [NHSN Point of Care Testing Reporting Tool Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [NHSN LTC COVID-19 Module How to Re-Assign the Facility Administrator](#)

Great Plains QIN Quick Tips for Obtaining NHSN Access

- [Adding Additional Users to NHSN/Level 1 Security Vs Level 3 Security](#)
- [I have NHSN Level 1 Security. How Do I Get Level 3 Security?](#)
- [I haven't Received the SAMS Invite to Upload my Identity Documents. What Can I Do?](#)
- [I Haven't Received my SAMS Grid Card. What Can I Do?](#)



CDC and CMS Resources and Updates

CDC

[COVID Data Tracker - Check your community transmission rate. Updated Daily at 8pm – **New!**](#)
[Interim IP Control Recommendations to Prevent SARS-COV-2 Spread in NHs](#) Updated 9/10/21
[Interim IP Control Recommendations for Healthcare Personnel During COVID-19](#) Updated 9/10/2021
[Interim Guidance Managing Healthcare Personnel w SARS-CoV-2 Infection or Exposure](#) Updated 9/10/2021
[Ending Isolation and Precautions for People w COVID-19: Interim Guidance](#) Updated 9/14/2021
[Strategies for Optimizing the Supply of N95 Respirators](#) Updated 9/16/2021
[Selected Adverse Events Reported after COVID-19 Vaccination](#) Updated 9/14/2021
[FAQs about COVID-19 Vaccination in LTCFs](#) Updated 9/9/2021
[COVID -19 Vaccines for LTC Facility Residents](#) Updated 8/31/21
[IP & Control Assessment \(ICAR\) tool for NH Preparing for COVID-19](#) 3/16/2021
[Strategies to Mitigate Healthcare Personnel Staffing Shortages](#) 3/10/2021

CMS

[QSO-20-38-NH IFR LTC Facility Testing Requirements/ COVID Focused Survey](#) Rev 9/10/2021

[QSO-20-41-all-revised-Guidance related to Emergency Preparedness Exercise Exemption](#) 6/21/2021
[QSO-21-19-NH: IFR COVID19 Vaccine Immunization Requirements for Residents and Staff](#) 5/11/2021
[QSO-20-39 NH: Nursing Home Visitation COVID19](#) 4/27/2021
[QSO-21-15-ALL Updated Guidance Emergency Preparedness - Appendix Z of SOM](#) 3/26/2021
[QSO-20-31-All: Revised COVID-19 Survey Activities, Enhanced Enforcement for Infection Control deficiencies & QI Activities in Nursing Homes](#) 1/4/2021



North Dakota Project Firstline



INFECTION CONTROL TRAINING FOR YOU

Project Firstline Offers:

- ✓ Education for ALL health care workers and students
- ✓ FREE live training events
- ✓ Recordings of past training events
- ✓ Opportunity to earn CEU through NDBON

What are health care workers in North Dakota saying about Project Firstline?

"I found this course very informative on not only infection control, but how infections are spread and how to try and stop or slow the spread of infection."

"I truly feel the structure of your presentations is probably the easiest to follow and the most user friendly webinars I have participated in!"

Visit our website:

www.health.nd.gov/projectfirstline



Coming SOON: The launch of a **new live series** of Infection Prevention Control Trainings – FALL 2021. Visit [Project Firstline | Department of Health \(nd.gov\)](#)

Contact dohpfl@nd.gov to receive an email update when the new training schedule is available.



South Dakota Project Firstline

Project Firstline (PFL) is a national infection control and prevention training initiative from the CDC, being led by the South Dakota Foundation for Medical Care (SDFMC), in partnership with the South Dakota Department of Health.



"We surveyed 1,900 South Dakotans for infection control needs and gaps in training and how workers best retain and receive education", commented Cheri Fast, PFL Manager.

"The learning needs assessment was open to a diverse group of workers, including those from hospitals, nursing homes, clinics, home care settings, public service facilities and schools."

Top Infection Control Training Needs Identified

- IC protocols for vulnerable populations - 41%
- Strategies for putting IC into practice - 41%
- COVID-19 procedures – 37%
- Source control - 33%
- Environmental cleaning procedures – 24%

Fast shared additional response insights, "While conducting the listening sessions, we learned that 85% of respondents have had infection control training, yet many challenges remain. The need for ongoing education and better training control was communicated loud and clear. **Stay tuned for upcoming learning events.**

[Cheri Fast, PFL Manager](#)

[Charlotte Hofer - PFL Communication Director](#)

Great Plains QIN Quality Improvement Advisors

Michelle Lauckner

RN, RAC-CT, IP-BC, QCP
North Dakota
701/989-6229



Lori Hintz

RN, CDP, CADDCT
South Dakota
605/354-3187



Dee Kaser

RN, CDCES
North and South Dakota
402/476-2884



Tammy Wagner

RN, LSSGB
North and South Dakota
402/476-2885



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