[The Gold Wrapping Paper - An Inspirational Christmas Story - YouTube](#) set to the music, *Angels We Have Heard on High* by *Mike Schmid* is so appropriate for this time of the year, when we are filled with thoughts of love and giving for our family, friends, and those in need. May God bless you, your family, your coworkers, and your residents during this holiday season!

Merry Christmas from the Great Plains QIN team

Education and Resources

[Visit our GPQIN Event Calendar](#) for upcoming and past events

Webinar: Project Firstline: Cleaning is More Than a Swiffer and Mr. Clean
Tuesday, Dec. 7, 2021
2:00 pm -3:00 pm CT
[Details and Registration](#)

[Great Plains QIN Nursing Home Quality Webpage](#)

CMS [Nursing Home Resource Center](#)

[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-

Great Plains Quality Care Coalition Webinar
Project FirstLine: Cleaning is More than a Swiffer and Mr. Clean
December 7, 2021 | 2:00 pm CT

Cheri Fast, RN, BSN, aIPC, of Project Firstline South Dakota and South Dakota Foundation for Medical Care will emphasize the importance of adhering to the basics of environmental cleaning and disinfections to promote patient and resident safety, staff wellness and reduce healthcare acquired infections. Content is geared for environmental services workers, nursing assistants and nurses in long term care, hospitals, and outpatient settings and clinics.

Webinar objectives:
- Identify the chain of infection and environment of care in the spread of infections
- Differentiate between cleaning and disinfecting
- Understand contact time and high touch surfaces
- Apply strategies and tips to support cleaning and disinfection compliance in healthcare environments
- Describe Project Firstline and available training

This training promises to provide common sense approaches that you can put to use every day! [Details and Registration](#)

Resources from Great Plains QIN
Great Plains QIN developed the [Connecting the Dots](#) tools and resources to increase knowledge of the individual's role in their healthcare journey and to achieve better health outcomes through understanding the connection

based trainings available on-demand online

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

between sepsis, immunizations and antibiotics. The Connecting the Dots tools and resources include a handout on each topic, posters and bookmarks that can be printed and distributed.

Check out the Great Plains QIN's Nursing Home Vaccination Change Package. It was developed to guide nursing homes in improving vaccination rates among residents and staff. The change package identifies barriers and challenges to vaccination and provides interventions supported by evidence-based tools and resources to improve influenza, pneumonia and COVID-19 vaccination and associated quality measures and rates. Visit the Great Plains QIN Vaccination Page to learn more.

Great Plains QIN's Quality Measure Video Series and Tip Sheets are designed for those involved with MDS coding, quality improvement and leadership. Each video is approximately 20 to 30 minutes and includes the recording, slide deck, transcript and tip sheet. New videos added monthly.

MDS Tip/ Resources – Section GG

What is Section GG? The intent of Section GG in the Resident Assessment Instrument (RAI) is to assess a resident's functional abilities and goals. It includes items focused on prior function, admission performance, discharge goals and discharge performance based on the need for assistance when performing self-care and mobility activities. Documentation in the medical record is used to support the coding of Section GG. Accuracy is very important as several quality measure scores and CMS Five Star Ratings are directly related to Section GG assessments.

CMS has released several new Section GG resources designed to improve understanding and how to code accurately. These resources are not only helpful to the MDS coder, but could be used in educating your certified nursing assistants and nursing staff.

1) **Short video tutorials** (ranging from 4 to 12 minutes each), designed to provide targeted guidance using simulated patient scenarios. *TIP: Feature a video at your monthly staff meetings or do a weekly feature.*

   - GG0110. Prior Device Use with Information from Multiple Sources. (3:58)
   - GG0130A. Eating.(6:19)
   - GG0130B. Oral Hygiene (4:25)
   - GG0130H. Putting on/taking off footwear. (6:25)
   - GG0170C. Lying to Sitting on side of bed. (4:33)
   - GG0170L. Walking 10 feet on uneven surfaces. (5:52)
   - GG1070P. Picking up object. (5:49)
   - Decision Tree for Coding Section GG0130. Self-Care and GG0170. Mobility. (11:56)
   - GG Self-Care & Mobility Activities Key Questions to Consider & Decision Tree (PDF)

2) **Companion Job Aids** provide information to assist providers in understanding specific guidelines and clinical considerations that should be applied to assessment and coding **GG0130A Eating, GG0130B Oral Hygiene, GG0130C Toileting Hygiene, GG0130E Shower/Bathe Self, GG0130F Upper Body Dressing, GG0130G Lower Body Dressing, and GG0130H Putting On/Taking Off Footwear.**

The job aids are provided in multiple file types designed for printing, viewing, or sharing electronically. An explanation of the file types is provided in GG0130 Job Aids Zip File.

TIP: Access the zip file, copy each file and insert in a binder for easy reference on the unit.

3) **Quick Assessment Reference Pocket Guides** are available to assist in assessing and coding self-care and mobility, falls, and pressure ulcers / injuries. They provide a quick reference for important terms and definitions that promote coding accuracy.

- Pocket Guide Coding for Self-Care and Mobility Items
- Pocket Guide Definitions for Coding Section J – Fall Items
- Pocket Guide Pressure Ulcers and Injuries – Stages and Definitions

TIP: Make copies available to staff or post on the unit as quick visual for reference

Additional CMS guidance and resources important to Section GG

- SNF Quality Reporting Program (QRP) website
- SNF QRP Frequently Asked Questions Document – 10/1/2021
- SNF Quality Reporting Program (QRP) Measures and Technical Information

Free! Computer Based Training Program on Infection Control Practices

Creating a culture of safety with Partnering to Heal is designed for clinicians, health professional students and patient advocates. Partnering to Heal is a computer-based, video-simulation training program on infection control practices. Users assume the identity of five main characters and make decisions about preventing health care-associated infections (HAIs). Objectives focus on the prevention of surgical site infections, central line-associated bloodstream infections, ventilator-associated pneumonia and more. In addition, it includes information on basic protocols for universal precautions and isolation precautions to protect patients, visitors, and practitioners, creating a "culture of safety."

This site is coordinated by the Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health, Office of the Secretary, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Holiday Quick Tips for those Living with Dementia
Submitted by Alzheimer's Association of Minnesota/North Dakota and South Dakota

With Christmas quickly approaching, it can be tempting to idealize nursing home visits – particularly if your loved one is suffering from dementia or Alzheimer's. The nature of the diseases makes family members want to believe their loved ones will be just a bit better. Long-term care staff often spend more time with the residents they care for than their own family. As staff, share your knowledge with the person living with dementia's family members as to what you know about their routine, their sure-fire smile makers, their dislikes, their best time of day so family can visit at that time!

- During visits, use slow and gentle motions. Smile. Keep lots of eye contact. Go along with your loved one's stories, rather than arguing or negating them. Join them in their reality.

- If possible, visit with someone else. Review the facility's policy on pets and children – they can help brighten a loved one's day.

- Keep in mind that people with Alzheimer's and dementia thrive on routine. Keep visits low-key and uncrowded.

- If you take a loved one home, remember to keep his or her medications handy. Consider wearing nametags. Once at home, try to engage your loved one in gentle, low-stress activities. Ideas might include baking cookies, stringing popcorn garlands and creating photo albums.

The holidays can be a wonderful time to reconnect with elderly family members. If you put a bit of extra time and effort into the reunion, the visits will be that much more rewarding.

The Alzheimer's Association 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 or the 24/7 Helpline: 800.272.3900.

News, Updates, Tips

NHSN LTCF Quick Links
- Vaccination Weekly HCP & Resident COVID-19 Module
- 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?

NHSN Tip from the Frontlines: NHSN Point of Care (POC) Testing Module
"We use the NHSN Point of Care Test Module and I find it very simple and a time saver. Getting the initial information logged in of the residents and staff takes a little time but after that, it is just keeping up on inputting the testing results. I find it quicker than submitting via our Department of Health portal for the POC testing data. It probably takes me 5 minutes to manually input the test result data directly into NHSN under the POC test Module. There is a search button that will automatically find those people you are retesting and since we don't have that much of a change in residents and staff, it has not been a problem keeping up."

Ashley Nickel, Administrator, Avantara Salem, SD

📋 CDC and CMS Resources and Updates

CDC
COVID Data Tracker - *Check your community transmission rate. Updated Daily at 8pm*
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

CMS
QSO-20-39-NH Nursing Home Visitation COVID19 - Revised 11/12/2021
QSO-22-02-ALL Changes to COVID19 Survey Activities & Increased Oversight in NH's New! 11/12/21
QSO-20-38-NH IFR LTC Facility Testing Requirements/ COVID Focused Survey Rev 9/10/2021
QS0-20-41-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

PROJECT FIRSTLINE — North Dakota Project Firstline Updates

NDDoH Project Firstline has the following Infection Prevention and Control trainings running. All trainings offer free continuing education credits through ND Board of Nursing. Registration links are included below:

To register for live training sessions or catch a training you missed, visit: www.health.nd.gov/projectfirstline

Upcoming Live Trainings:

- PPE Part 1 - Eye Protection (30 min) - Tuesday, December | 12:00 pm - 12:30pm

- PPE Part 2 - Gowns and Gloves (30 min) - Tuesday, December 14 | 12:00 pm - 12:30 pm

For more information email dohpfl@nd.gov or visit www.health.nd.gov/projectfirstline

PROJECT FIRSTLINE — South Dakota Project Firstline Updates

South Dakota Project Firstline (PFL) interactive website offers free infectious disease control videos and resources.

Visit www.sdprojectfirstline.org to preview or take the trainings. The trainings are short (about 5 minutes), timely (containing the latest CDC information) and easy to understand (basic to advanced levels) and best of all, they are free.

South Dakota PFL partners: South Dakota Foundation for Medical Care, South Dakota Department of Health and the CDC.

Questions? Email: Cheri Fast, PFL Manager or Charlotte Hofer - PFL Communication Director

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