



Great Plains Quality Care Coalition
Nursing Home E-News: **Nuts & Bolts**
Better Together
July 2022 | Issue 30

Education and Resources

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

[Behavioral Health in the Dakotas: Panel Discussion - Great Plains QIN](#)
July 25, 3-4pm CT

[Roundtable: Immunizations in the Dakotas - Great Plains QIN](#)
August 16, 3-4 pm CT

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

[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 online trainings | on-demand

Thursday's Boost with Your QIO Series by Great Plains QIN

Every **Thursday at 3:00 pm MT / 4:00 pm CT**, Great Plains QIN Quality Improvement Advisors help nursing homes in North Dakota and South Dakota access and understand new COVID-19 recommendations, vaccination/booster requirements, reporting requirements such as NHSN and available state and national resources. An office hours format follows for participants to ask questions and interact with their peers.

The resources discussed are compiled in a quick document and made available to participants that have joined the call. Here is the [July 7, 2022 Boost Resource List](#).

Each Boost with Your QIO is scheduled for 30 minutes. It is **only** for ND and SD nursing homes. You only need to register once. If you haven't joined on a live call, consider doing so. We would love to have you!

Topic	Tool	Date
COVID Update Public Health Collaborative	Information Sheet Communication: What's Going On Today Guidance Guidance: COVID-19 Update: 20 August 2021 Guidance: COVID-19 Update: 20 August 2021 Guidance: COVID-19 Update: 20 August 2021 Guidance: COVID-19 Update: 20 August 2021	July 7, 2022
Using COVID-19 Post COVID-19 Protocols	COVID-19 Post COVID-19 Protocols	June 30, 2022
Masking Requirements: CDC Guidance	CDC Guidance - Masks: Selection, Use, and Disposal Updated February 8, 2022	June 23, 2022
Let's Talk About Septic	Let's Talk About Septic	June 16, 2022

Register Here

Advance Copy of RoP Phases 2 & 3 & Updated Surveyor Guidance Released

On June 29, 2022, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) released [QSO-22-19-NH Revised LTC Surveyor Guidance: Revisions for Phases 2 & 3, Arbitration Agreement Requirements, Investigating Complaints & Facility Reported Incidents and the Psychosocial Outcome Severity Guide](#). Surveyors will begin using this guidance October 24, 2022, allowing time for surveyors and facilities to be trained on this new information. It is advised to review this QSO in its entirety as it contains a multitude of areas of new and revised guidance.

In the download section of the above link, additional resources have been posted, including the

advance copy of the [State Operations Manual](#) to clarify specific regulatory requirements and provide information on how compliance will be assessed.



Tip: There is a lot of information to digest with these revisions and additions so start reviewing and preparing now. This [Fact Sheet](#) by CMS provides a summary on the new and updated guidance.

Staffing Quality Measure Rating Changes with the July 2022 Refresh

CMS Post-Acute Quality Reporting Programs | Center for Clinical Standards and Quality

In January, 2022, CMS began posting new weekend staffing and staff turnover measures on Care Compare ([CMS memorandum QSO 22-08-NH](#)). These measures will be included in the Nursing Home Five Star Rating System methodology starting with the July 2022 Care Compare refresh.

In addition to existing measures of registered nurse (RN) and total nurse hours per resident per day, the new staffing rating methodology will include the following measures:

- Total nurse staffing hours per resident per day weekends;
- Total nurse staff turnover within a given year;
- Registered nurse (RN) turnover within a given year; and
- Number of administrators who have left the nursing home within a given year.

Each nursing home's performance on the staffing measures are converted to points, then summed and compared to thresholds to determine the staffing star rating. Additionally, to emphasize the importance of staffing, CMS will no longer add one star to the overall rating of nursing homes that have a four-star staffing rating. Rather, only nursing homes with a five-star staffing rating will be rewarded with an increase in their overall star rating.

Additional details regarding the staffing rating methodology are included in the [Nursing Home Five-Star Quality Rating Technical Users' Guide](#).



The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) is seeking nursing homes to [participate in a pilot study](#) of the Workplace Safety Supplemental Item Set for the Surveys on Patient Safety Culture™ (SOPS®) Nursing Home Survey. The new supplemental item set focuses on the extent to which nursing homes' organizational culture supports the safety of staff in the workplace.

Nursing homes may be eligible for an incentive payment if they qualify for participation. If selected, participating nursing homes will receive:

- Free survey administration of the SOPS Nursing Home Survey with the Workplace Safety Supplemental Items to nursing home staff in July/August 2022.
- Feedback reports comparing their results to other pilot sites.
- The option to have findings included in the next SOPS Nursing Home Database.

If your nursing home(s) or nursing home chain would like to participate or learn more, please email WorkplaceSafety@westat.com or call 1-855-390-2448.

Sundowning . . . Causes and Coping Strategies

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



It's common for people living with Alzheimer's disease to experience increased confusion, anxiety, agitation, pacing, and disorientation beginning at dusk and continuing throughout the night. Commonly referred to as "sundowning", this syndrome can disrupt the body's sleep-wake cycle, causing more behavioral problems late in the day.

Factors that may cause sundowning:

- Mental and physical exhaustion from a full day trying to keep up with an unfamiliar or confusing environment.
- Nonverbal behaviors of others, especially if stress or frustration is present, may inadvertently contribute to the stress level of person living with Alzheimer's.
- Reduced lighting can increase shadows and may cause the person living with the disease to misinterpret what they see and, subsequently, become more agitated.

Tips that may help caregivers manage sundowning:

- Get plenty of rest so you're less likely to exhibit unintended nonverbal behavior.
- Schedule activities such as doctor appointments, trips and bathing in the morning or early afternoon hours when the person living with dementia is more alert.
- Make notes about what happens before sundowning events and try to identify triggers.
- Reduce stimulation during the evening hours (i.e., TV, doing chores, loud music, etc.). These distractions may add to the person's confusion.
- Offer a larger meal at lunch and keep the evening meal lighter.
- Keep their surroundings well-lit in the evening. Adequate lighting may reduce the person's confusion.
- Take a walk with the person to help reduce his or her restlessness.
- When behavioral interventions and environmental changes do not work, consider a professional care consultation with the care team and an Alzheimer's Association care consultant.

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.



How Can a Grapefruit Help You Stage a Pressure Ulcer/Injury?

Pressure ulcer/injury staging can be complicated and confusing, but this video can help make it easier. [Watch as Dr. Heather Hettrick demonstrates how to stage](#) a PU/I using a grapefruit.

National Healthcare Safety Network Long-Term Care Quick Links

[Vaccination Weekly HCP & Res COVID-19 Module Main Webpage](#)

[COVID-19 LTCF Module Main Webpage](#)

[Data Quality Alerts: Weekly COVID-19 Vaccination Modules](#)

[Data Quality Alerts: COVID-19 Pathways Module](#)

[FAQs: COVID-19 Data Document](#)

[NHSN Point of Care Testing Reporting Tool FAQ's](#)

[NHSN LTC COVID-19 Module How to Re-Assign the FacADM](#)

[NHSN LTC COVID-19 How to Add a User](#)

[NHSN FAQs on Reporting Weekly COVID-19 Vaccination Data – Updated 6/21/22](#)

NHSN Q&A's:

Q1: Does the resident identifier/ staff identifier need to be the same one that I use for the Point of Care (POC) testing results form?

A1: Yes. It is encouraged that you use the same identifier for individuals throughout the NHSN application, and that each individual has a UNIQUE identifier. Steer away from using date of birth, initials, room numbers for the unique identifier as there would be a good chance you could easily duplicate the unique identifier.

Q2: On the Event- Level (Person Level) Reporting for the Weekly Vaccination Module, how do I add a new health care worker or resident?

A2: Step 1: Click + Add Row button

Step 2: New yellow section at the top of the form will appear to enter this individual's data

Step 3: Enter required and applicable fields

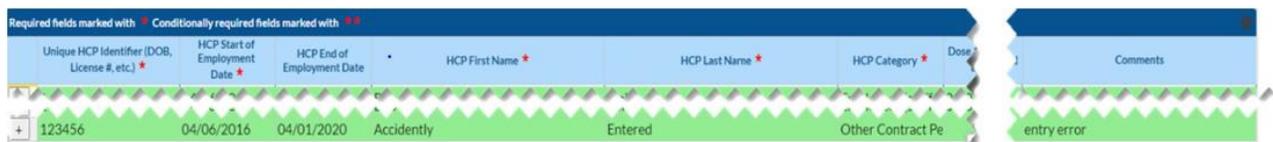
Step 4: Click Save Row

Q3: On the Event-level (Person Level) Reporting for the Weekly Vaccination Module, if I enter incorrect data by mistake and click save, can the row be deleted?

A3: No. If data is entered and saved, the row CANNOT be deleted. It is recommended that you do one of the following:

- Edit the row/ repurpose the row with someone else's data or
- Change the discharge/end date to a date that is before the event -level forms can be used to submit data (i.e., before 3/28/2022). This way, the incorrect individual won't contribute to any data that can be submitted.

Note: if you do this, you should also change the name and ID to avoid confusion. Add a not to the "Comments" column on the far right to document that this entry is incorrect.



Required fields marked with *		Conditionally required fields marked with *					
Unique HCP Identifier (DOB, License #, etc.) *	HCP Start of Employment Date *	HCP End of Employment Date *	HCP First Name *	HCP Last Name *	HCP Category *	Dose *	Comments
123456	04/06/2016	04/01/2020	Accidently	Entered	Other Contract Pe		entryerror



CDC, CMS, OSHA Resources and Updates

Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC)

[Interim IPC Recommendations for Healthcare Personnel During COVID19 Pandemic](#) 2/2/22

[Stay Up to Date with Your Vaccines](#) 1/16/22

[Ending Isolation & Precautions for People w COVID-19: Interim Guidance](#) 1/14/22

[Interim Guidance for Managing Healthcare Personnel w SARS-CoV-2 Infection/Exposure](#) 1/21/22

[Strategies to Mitigate Healthcare personnel Staffing Shortages](#) 1/21/22

[COVID Data Tracker - Check your community transmission rate. Updated Daily at 8pm](#)

[Interim IP Control Recommendations to Prevent SARS-COV-2 Spread in NHs](#) 2/2/22

[Strategies for Optimizing the Supply of N95 Respirators](#) 9/16/2021

[Selected Adverse Events Reported after COVID-19 Vaccination](#) 1/24/22

[FAQs about COVID-19 Vaccination in LTCFs](#) 9/9/21

[COVID -19 Vaccines for LTC Facility Residents](#) 1/21/22

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)

[QSO-22-19-NH Revised Long Term Care Surveyor Guidance](#) **New! 6/29/22**

[QSO-22-18-ALL Rescission of 1/25/22 memo re Vaccination expectations for Surveyors](#) - **New! 6/16/22**

[QSO-22-17 Survey compliance for health care staff vaccination requirements](#) – **New! 6/14/2022**

[QSO-22-15-NH-NLTC-LSC PHE Waivers Update](#) 4/7/2022

[QSO-22-09-ALL Guidance for IFR COVID19 Health Care Staff Vaccination](#) 4/5/2022

- [LTC and SNF Attachment A- Revised](#)

[QSO-20-38-NH IFR COVID19 PHE re LTC Facility Testing Requirements](#) 3/10/2022

[QSO-20-39-NH Nursing Home Visitation COVID19](#) 3/10/2022

[Nursing Home Visitation FAQ's](#) 3/10/22

[QSO-22-08-NH Nursing Staff Turnover and Weekend Staffing Levels](#) 1/7/2022

[QSO-22-02-ALL Changes to COVID19 Survey Activities & Increased Oversight in NH's](#) 11/12/21

[QSO-21-19-NH COVID19 Vaccine Requirements for Residents and Staff](#) - 5/11/2021

[QSO-20-31-All: Revised COVID-19 Survey Activities, Enhanced Enforcement for Infection Control deficiencies & QI Activities in Nursing Homes](#) 1/4/2021

Great Plains QIN Campaign | Become a COVID-19 Vaccination Booster Champion!



Great Plains QIN has launched a campaign to celebrate and recognize North Dakota and South Dakota organizations with high staff COVID-19 booster vaccination rates - **COVID-19 Staff Vaccination Booster Champions**. Organizations will be considered a *Booster Champion* when 75% or greater of their staff have received the first booster. A *Booster Champion Certificate* and a customizable press release are provided to *Booster Champions* to be used with local media, shared on the organization's website or social media platform and in an organization's newsletter. Access the current list of [Booster Champions](#) and their shared best practices. **To participate**, submit current staff booster rate [here](#).

WE ARE PROJECT FIRSTLINE



North Dakota Project Firstline Updates

Infection Control Training for Frontline Staff: Nurse, CNA, & EVS Workers

Looking for a fresh way to learn about Infection Prevention and Control topics?

Our Healthcare Associated Infections team is coming out with a quarterly newsletter! We also send out emails to let you know when new infection prevention and control training topics are open for sign-ups. To get on our emailing list, send an email to dohpfl@nd.gov

Are you interested in training videos, job aides, and more?

For infection prevention and control resources that can help you do your best work, check our NDDOH Project First website at: www.health.nd.gov/projectfirstline

Do you have an infection prevention and control question you want to ask, or a topic you want us to cover?

Our team is always here to help, and we want to know what topics you want to know more about. Send any questions or feedback to dohpfl@nd.gov



South Dakota Project Firstline Updates



Summer Safety Tips

With summer here, we all enjoy many fun activities both in and out of the healthcare facilities. Here are a few thoughts to keep in mind while you gather for summer picnics, family get togethers, and holiday celebrations. The warm temperatures also can be a breeding ground for germs and the gut.

The gut is filled with bacteria and some yeasts, which are part of a healthy immune system.

- Most gut germs don't cause problems in healthy people, but they can cause infection when they spread.
- Germs in stool can spread onto hands and skin when wiping or changing a diaper

Germs That Live in the Gut

- E. coli
- Klebsiella
- Candida
- Clostridiodes difficile (C. diff) E. coli

Infection Control Actions to Reduce Risk

- Hand hygiene
- Use of personal protective equipment (gloves and gowns)
- Cleaning and disinfection
- Textile management
- Waste management

Visit sdprojectfirstline.org and follow us on [Facebook](#).



Great Plains QIN Quality Improvement Advisors

<p><u>Jenifer Lauckner</u> RN North Dakota 701/989-6228</p>	<p><u>Lori Hintz</u> RN, CDP, CADDCT South Dakota 605/354-3187</p>	<p><u>Dee Kaser</u> RN, CDCES North and South Dakota 402/476-2884</p>	<p><u>Tammy Wagner</u> RN, LSSGB, CDP, CADDCT North and South Dakota 402/476-2885</p>	<p><u>Stephanie Meduna</u> RN, BSN North and South Dakota 402/476-2885</p>
				

www.greatplainsqin.org



This material was prepared by Great Plains Quality Innovation Network, a Quality Innovation Network – Quality Improvement Organization, under contract with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Views expressed in this material do not necessarily reflect the official views or policy of CMS or HHS, and any reference to a specific product or entity herein does not constitute endorsement of that product or entity by CMS or HHS. 12SOW/GPQIN/QIN-QIO-211/0722