

To the Point



From the desk of
Victoria Walker MD, CMD
Vice President,
Medical Services and Quality System
December 2019



Holiday Greetings

As 2019 comes to an end, I thank you for being a part of the Good Samaritan family. The work you do is not easy, but it is meaningful and appreciated.

Antipsychotic Use Update

Thank you to all of you who have been working with the nursing home team to ensure that antipsychotics are prescribed appropriately. In the last year, we have decreased use of these medications by 12%, for an average rate of 13.2% (compared to a national average of 14.5%). We take this issue very seriously, and will continue our focus.

Quality Council

An “enterprise QAPI committee” met for the first time at National Campus in November. This multidisciplinary group of leaders will meet monthly to monitor and champion quality improvement efforts across the organization. The organizational goals for 2020 are:

- Reduce avoidable hospitalizations
- Reduce the use of antipsychotics
- Reduce the number of falls with injuries
- Incorporate infection prevention activities into location’s routine

Additional topics may be added to the list based on the needs in locations. The specific organizational and location-specific targets will be discussed at local QAPI committee meetings.

Updates from CMS

The prevention of abuse and neglect in LTC is a high priority for all who dedicate their careers to serving seniors. CMS is trying to provide consumers additional information about the topic, and recently added a new icon to Nursing Home Compare to indicate if a location has had a citation-related harm due to abuse and neglect in the last year (or possible harm for the past two years). Six Good Samaritan locations have this icon. If

you have any questions about this, please discuss with your administrator and director of nursing, or feel free to reach out to me directly.

Regulatory Update

The implementation of the third phase of the updated Requirements of Participation went into effect on November 28. There is a pending proposal to delay components of the rule, and CMS has stated that they will not have surveyor training completed on these new regulations until second quarter of 2020. Despite this confusion, it is important to note that Infection Preventionist training and the antimicrobial program WILL NOT be delayed, so keep working to make sure you are ready for them.

Reminder – keep looking at hospital transfers

Every re-hospitalization is an opportunity to learn something that will help improve care for the next resident. The [Medical Provider Checklist](#) will help you take a thorough look. Be sure to report the time you spent when you submit your invoice to the administrator.

Influenza vaccination

Over 97% of Good Samaritan employees are vaccinated. Thank you for all your help in achieving this milestone to make our locations a safer place to live and work.

AMDA-The Society for Post-Acute and LTC Medicine

Take advantage of the [free CME](#) that you can access through the AMDA membership provided by the Society. Also remember, the Society helps cover costs to [become a certified medical director](#) – talk to your administrator about pursuing this exceptional professional development opportunity.

Questions? Email vwalker3@good-sam.com.

Our mission: Dedicated to sharing God's love through the work of health, healing and comfort.