



CMS Announces Change to “Nursing Home Compare” Emphasizing Transparency Related to Abuse and Neglect

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What is changing?

On October 7, 2019, it was announced that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (“CMS”) will implement a significant update to the information available to the public online at Nursing Home Compare. According to a CMS press release, beginning October 23, 2019, CMS will display a consumer alert icon (“Icon”) on Nursing Home Compare next to nursing homes that have been cited for incidents of abuse, neglect, or exploitation.



New consumer alert icon to be added to Nursing Home Compare.

The Icon will be added to a nursing home’s profile for one or both of the following:

1. Abuse that led to harm of a resident within the past year.
2. Abuse that could have potentially led to harm of a resident in each of the last two years.

CMS has indicated that Icon displays will be updated monthly at the same time CMS nursing home inspection results are updated. Further, CMS has indicated that an Icon will be displayed on a nursing home’s profile only “as long as necessary” (i.e., removed once a nursing home’s most recent inspection report indicates that the issues resulting in citation have been remedied).

What remains the same?

Nursing Home Compare will maintain its star rating system. Implementation and use of the Icon will be a supplement to the information already available at Nursing Home Compare.

Why is this change important?

Implementation and use of the Icon is part of a larger push by CMS to empower nursing home residents, their families, and their caregivers by improving accessibility to information that easily and transparently demonstrates a nursing home’s quality. In April, Seema Verma, the Administrator of CMS, announced a five-part approach to improving nursing home safety and quality. The five parts are:

1. Increase transparency
2. Strengthen oversight
3. Enhance enforcement
4. Improve quality
5. Put patients over paperwork

Implementation and use of the Icon demonstrates CMS taking tangible steps to operationalize the above five-part approach.

Questions?

For more information, or if you have questions, please contact a member of Benesch’s Health Care & Life Sciences Practice Group.

Additional Information

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