



STATE OF MARYLAND  
**DHMH**

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Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene  
Office of Health Care Quality  
Spring Grove Hospital Center • Bland Bryant Building  
55 Wade Avenue • Baltimore, Maryland 21228-4663

Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., Governor – Michael S. Steele, Lt. Governor – S. Anthony McCann, Secretary

To: Administrators, Long Term Care Facilities in Maryland

From: Wendy Kronmiller, Director, OHCQ  
Wendy Gary, MHA, Director of Quality Improvement Programs, Delmarva Foundation

Re: Pressure Ulcer Rates and Initiatives

Date: June 16, 2006

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As you know, reducing the prevalence of pressure ulcers in long-term care facilities in order to improve the quality of residents' lives is one of CMS' paramount goals. Unfortunately, pressure ulcer rates in Maryland continue to exceed the national average.

Delmarva and the Office of Health Care Quality (OHCQ) are committed towards working together to achieve better results in Maryland. Specifically,

- OHCQ long-term care surveyors will continue to write deficiencies for avoidable pressure ulcers, using CMS' 2004 Guidance to Surveyors relating to pressure ulcers. (F Tag 314). We encourage you to review this document. In addition to the criteria surveyors use in evaluating whether or not there is a deficiency, the guidance is a source of information on means to avoid and heal pressure ulcers.
- The OHCQ Technical Assistance Unit (TAU) surveyors and long-term care surveyors will continue to identify and focus on facilities with higher than average rates of house-acquired pressure ulcers.
- The TAU is revising its survey tool to address house-acquired pressure ulcers and will be contacting nursing homes directly in an effort to solicit data on pressure ulcer rates. The TAU is gathering additional educational information on pressure ulcer prevention and will disseminate this information during the TAU survey.
- OHCQ's Health Care Quality Account will be a source of grants for worthy projects that will reduce pressure ulcers (see [www.dhmh.state.md.us/ohcq](http://www.dhmh.state.md.us/ohcq)).
- OHCQ encourages long-term care facilities to inform hospitals when patients are transferred from a hospital with a pressure ulcer that appears to have been acquired in the hospital. If communications are not successful, we encourage you to file a complaint with our Hospital Unit, (410) 402-8016. Complaints may be submitted anonymously.

Delmarva Foundation, Maryland's Quality Improvement Organization will:

- Provide accurate data and trends concerning pressure ulcers.
- Provide resources and educational materials to nursing homes such as the Nursing Home Information Feedback Tool (NHIFT).
- Provide technical assistance and consultation to assist nursing homes in identifying root causes and implementing appropriate quality improvement initiatives.

We ask you to join us in our effort to reduce Maryland's rate of avoidable pressure ulcers and welcome your suggestions. Delmarva Foundation and OHCQ will coordinate efforts in working with you on reducing Maryland's pressure ulcer rates. If you have any questions or wish to take advantage of any of these opportunities, please contact:

OHCQ: Linda Masterson at [lmasterson@dhmh.state.md.us](mailto:lmasterson@dhmh.state.md.us) or 410-402-8008

Delmarva Foundation: Clarina Williams Davis at [williamscl@dfmc.org](mailto:williamscl@dfmc.org) or 410-712-7450

cc: Tim Hoke, CMS  
Paul Velez, CMS  
Paul Gurny, DHMH