

Rhode Island Nursing Homes among Leaders in National Effort to Improve Quality

RI is One of Four States to Achieve 100% Participation in Campaign to Make Nursing Homes Better Places to Live, Work and Visit

[Warwick, RI, June 15, 2010] – Every one of the 86 Medicaid certified nursing homes in Rhode Island has made a significant commitment to improve quality of care by participating in a national campaign dedicated to making nursing homes better places to live, work and visit. Last week, Rhode Island became one of only four states – in addition to South Dakota, Arkansas and Georgia – where every nursing home participates in the Advancing Excellence in America’s Nursing Homes campaign. In a typical year, nearly 9000 Rhode Island residents spend some time in a nursing home.

Advancing Excellence is the largest voluntary group of its kind working in every state to help nursing homes improve the quality of care for residents and work environment for staff. Nursing homes that have participated in this initiative have made faster progress at improving in key goal areas such as reducing rates of pressure ulcers, improving management of pain, and significantly reducing use of physical restraints. Participating homes are also working to improve in areas such as staff retention and resident and family satisfaction.

In addition to 28 participating national organizations representing nursing homes, others including health care professionals and direct care workers, quality improvement experts, consumers and government agencies such as the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and the Veterans Administration, and an established infrastructure of Local Area Networks for Excellence (LANEs), provide support and information for the Advancing Excellence campaign at the state level .

In a recent letter to Governor Donald Carcieri, Advancing Excellence Campaign Chair, Mary Jane Koren, M.D., M.P.H., and Vice Chair, Chris Condeelis, praised Rhode Island nursing homes, stating, “Rhode Island’s achievement in getting every nursing home in the state to enroll in the Campaign is due to the vision, determination and sustained effort of your long-term care leaders.”

Nursing homes, consumers and staff that join Advancing Excellence receive free regular updates related to quality improvement such as fact sheets and tip sheets. More information is available at www.nhqualitycampaign.org .

“When you walk into a nursing home to visit your family member and the same staff greets you, they know your name, your family member is comfortable and enjoying all that the nursing home has to offer, you are seeing the goals of the campaign in action,” said Nelia Silva Odom, RN, BSN, MBA, MHA, Senior Program Coordinator, Quality Partners of Rhode Island/Rhode Island Generations Coalition Member and Local Area Network of Excellence (LANE) convener.