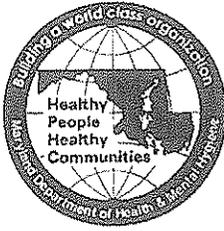


STATE OF MARYLAND



DHMH

Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

Office of Health Care Quality

Spring Grove Center • Bland Bryant Building

55 Wade Avenue • Catonsville, Maryland 21228-4663

Martin O'Malley, Governor – Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor – John M. Colmers, Secretary

TO: Nursing Home Administrators
FROM: Wendy Kronmiller, Director
DATE: December 8, 2008
RE: Implementation of Quality Indicator Survey Stakeholders' Conference

Maryland was recently selected by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to implement the Quality Indicator Survey (QIS), which is a computer assisted long-term care survey process to determine if Medicare/Medicaid certified nursing homes meet the Federal requirements.

The QIS is a two-staged process used by the surveyors to systematically review specific nursing home requirements and objectively investigate any regulatory areas that are triggered. Although the survey process has been revised under the QIS, the Federal regulations and interpretative guidance remain unchanged. We believe that the QIS will lead to more consistent survey results, will enable us to better focus on facilities with the largest number of quality concerns, and will help us to better focus on residents' quality of life.

On December 17, 2008, from 1 to 2:30 PM, the CMS contractors who will be assisting us with the QIS and our State lead staff will be providing a QIS Overview conference with stakeholders and other interested parties. There will be the opportunity to ask questions about the QIS and Maryland's implementation of the process. We encourage you to participate in this event.

To participate in the conference, the dial in number is:

1-866-294-4838 (Alternate dial-in: 1-847-944-7303) Pass code: 5574587#

The location of the presentation on the Web is:

<http://www.nursinghomequality.com/marylandqis>

For additional information on the QIS process, go to:

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/SurveyCertificationGenInfo/downloads/SCLetter08-21.pdf>

cc: State Ombudsmen
Michelle Clinton, CMS RO
LTC surveyors
Voices for Quality Care