

# MENTOR-NHC

*Monthly Education, News, and Tips to Optimize Reliability of Nursing Home Care*

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## Data Crucial to Monitoring Quality Improvement Efforts

Nursing homes have two excellent tools available to them to chart the progress of their quality improvement efforts. These easily accessible tools have the added advantage of enabling nursing homes to evaluate their quality improvement efforts over time.

### Minimum Data Set (MDS) Quality Indicator/Quality Measure (QI/QM) Reports

Your MDS Coordinator can follow the steps below to access your nursing home's reports:

1. Select the CASPER Reports link from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' (CMS's) MDS System (the State QIES) Welcome Page.
2. Enter your User ID and Password, and select the Login button on the CASPER Login Page.
3. Select the "Reports" button in the toolbar on the CASPER Topics page and the CASPER Reports page will display.
4. Select the MDS QI/QM Reports link for a list of these reports. Users may request a single report by selecting the "Report Name" link, or to request multiple reports with one submission, select the MDS/QI/QM Package link.

The new MDS QI/QM Reports replace the former QI reports. QMs have replaced QIs when their definitions are similar (although they may not be identical). Most QIs with no equivalent QMs have been retained. The data on the new reports are calculated on a weekly basis, unlike the data on the old reports that were recalculated following each submission of assessment records and updated monthly.

In addition to Facility Characteristics, Facility QM/QI, Resident Level, and Resident Listing reports, the MDS QI/QM Reports allow nursing homes to view and print monthly trend reports. These reports show a nursing home's monthly scores on each individual QI or QM over a period of time; the user can select the months to be displayed. For each month, the report displays the nursing home's score and the average score for New Jersey and the nation in both tabular and graphic formats. Questions or problems with these reports should be directed to the state survey agency. Keep in mind that the survey process will not change as a result of the surveyors having QM, as well as QI, information.

### Setting Targets—Achieving Results (STAR) Initiative

At [www.nhqi-star.org](http://www.nhqi-star.org), nursing homes can view and print quarterly trending data to a tenth of a percent on four quality measures—physical restraints, high-risk pressure ulcers, depression, and chronic care pain—from the most recent data available on Nursing Home Compare back to the third quarter of 2003. For each QM, the report displays the nursing home's score and the average score for New Jersey and the nation in both tabular and graphic formats, along with the target selected and the path to reach it. These trending reports are updated quarterly, a few weeks after Nursing Home Compare is refreshed.

All of these features are available once an account is opened on the STAR website. It's easy and free: have your Medicare provider number handy; go to [www.nhqi-star.org](http://www.nhqi-star.org) and click on "Create an Account"; then follow the step-by-step instructions.

### Questions?

For information about these data tools, please contact the Healthcare Quality Strategies, Inc., Nursing Home Team at 1-732-238-5570: Anne Sommers, extension 2062; Marianne Sagarese, extension 2006; or Dolores Viotti, extension 2117.



(Formerly PRONJ)  
557 Cranbury Road, Suite 21 ♦ East Brunswick, NJ 08816-5419  
Phone: 732-238-5570 ♦ Fax: 732-238-7766 ♦ Website: [www.hqsi.org](http://www.hqsi.org)

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