

DOH STATE OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

161 Delaware Avenue Delmar, NY 12054-1393

Antonia C. Novello, M.D., M.P.H., Dr. P.H.
Commissioner

Dennis P. Whalen
Executive Deputy Commissioner

November 4, 2005

DAL /DQS 05-16

Subject: Quality Improvement Practices and
Initiatives in Nursing Homes

Dear Administrator:

In October 2005, the Department of Health issued a Dear Administrator Letter (DAL 05-12) strongly encouraging your active participation in the Setting Targets-Achieving Results (STAR) Program. The Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) expects 65% of nursing homes nationally to set targets by December 1, 2005. This letter is a reminder that you should strongly consider participating in this project and establishing performance improvement targets.

The Island Peer Review Organization (IPRO), the QIO for New York, offers this valuable opportunity to all nursing facilities in New York State. As you know, there is no cost to participate in QIO programs. Your participation is confidential. The targets you establish and your performance data throughout the project are not reported to the Department or used as part of the survey program.

The Island Peer Review Organization's (IPRO) quality improvement staff has contacted facilities to participate in the STAR program. To date, we have not achieved the federal participation goal.

We know that New York's nursing home community is committed to quality improvement practices that will further enhance the services provided to our nursing home residents. I hope that our providers will demonstrate that commitment by significantly exceeding the CMS participation target. Your participation is critical in achieving that goal.

Please respond to IPRO with your commitment to participate as soon as possible. If you have any questions, please contact Pauline Kinney, Director of NHQI, IPRO, via e-mail at PKinney@nyqio.sdps.org. Thank you in advance for your commitment to this project and ensuring high-quality care and dignified quality of life to our residents.

Sincerely,



Keith W. Servis, Director
Division of Quality & Surveillance
for Nursing Homes & ICFs/MR