

Spotlight on Success

Fellowship Community



Joint Commission Nursing Care Center accreditation prepares long term care facilities to meet Quality Assurance Performance Improvement (QAPI) requirements

The leadership team at Fellowship Community, a long term care facility in Lehigh Valley Pennsylvania, found Joint Commission accreditation and certification helps them foster better outcomes, meet QAPI requirements and improve their patient safety culture.

Q: How do you feel Nursing Care Center accreditation by The Joint Commission helped you meet QAPI requirements?

A: Any organization that is not using the concept of continuous performance improvement can't succeed at achieving the QAPI requirements. They just won't be prepared. We interact regularly with other nursing facilities that don't have accreditation and are looking for advice on the QAPI requirements. Because of Joint Commission accreditation, we already had a continuous performance improvement plan in place, which contains all the elements that are necessary for the QAPI plan.

We just had to adjust the structure and change some language, but we had the foundation laid for many years. At Fellowship Community, having accreditation made it very easy for us to meet the QAPI standards.

“CMS says a QAPI program must be ongoing and comprehensive, deal with our full range of services, and include clinical care, quality of life, and resident choice. It must aim for safety and high quality with measured goals. That defines what we did to achieve accreditation.”

Donna Conley, COO

Q: Why did you choose The Joint Commission for Nursing Care Center accreditation?

A: A few members of our administration came from a hospital environment, so we understood the value of Joint Commission accreditation to patient safety and overall quality. We feel The Joint Commission holds us to higher standards than other surveys. The process of getting accreditation and keeping it is designed to foster team spirit and really build staff morale. Everyone is involved in the process improvement effort. It also sends a clear message throughout the organization that you are committed to improvement. Accreditation has helped us achieve our goals and strengthen our continuing journey to excellence.

Q: How did Joint Commission accreditation help you when you were preparing for the CMS transition to QAPI?

A: Joint Commission accreditation is methodical and structured, so we use that construct when we prepare for any survey process. Following Joint Commission standards really outlines what you need to do to create high quality processes and improve patient safety. Therefore, meeting QAPI requirements came naturally to our team.

Q: Did preparing for accreditation help you reduce consultant fees you might normally use to prepare for QAPI?

A: We did not have to use any consultants to meet the QAPI requirements. The cost benefit to being accredited and certified extends to the QAPI preparation as well. I truly believe you can't afford not to have accreditation in today's competitive environment, and it is even truer when you consider it completely prepares you to meet all QAPI requirements.

RESULTS

You can't afford not to be accredited.



INFECTIONS

An estimated 1.6 million to 3.8 million infections occur in long term care facilities each year.

Estimates suggest infections could result in as many as 380,000 deaths among nursing home residents each year.



GROWTH

More than 1.5 million people live in U.S. nursing homes today. That number is expected to be 5.3 million by 2020.



FALLS

In U.S. nursing homes a fall resulting in injury has been experienced by 5.3% of residents, according to CMS.

For more information on Joint Commission Nursing Care Center Accreditation, please call (630) 792-5020.

