



**Indiana  
Department  
of  
Health**

# Long-term Care NEWSLETTER

**LTC Newsletter 2022-39**  
**Oct. 27, 2022**

---

## LTC Update:

- **Signature Required on Plan of Correction – NEW**
- **CMS Revisions to Special Focus Facility (SFF) Program**
- **CMS Revised Guidance for Staff Vaccination Requirements**
- **Indiana Healthcare Leadership Conference Presentation Slides, Recordings and SAMHSA Resources Available**
- **Civil Money Penalty (CMP) Reinvestment Application – In-Person Visitation Aids – Portable Fans and Portable Room Air Cleaners – Deadline 12/31/2022**
- **Request for Applications for CMP Projects for Antipsychotic Stewardship**

## Signature Required on Plan of Correction – NEW

IDOH has recently received clarification from CMS that we must have a signature on the Plan of Correction (POC) to accept it. An attestation and electronic signature has now been built into the Gateway/Survey Report System when facilities submit their plan of correction, as indicated in the screenshot below.

### Submitting plan of correction:

- Please type your full name and title below which will appear as the signature for the Plan of Correction
- 25/10/2022  
First and Last Name Title Date
- I do hereby attest that this information in this document is true, accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that by typing my name and checking the box that I am electronically signing this document.
- Click the submit plan of correction button to send the plan of correction to IDOH
- After pressing the submit plan of correction button a message will appear verify that the plan of correction is complete click 'OK'
- If further changes are required with the plan of correction click the cancel button to navigate back to the plan of correction entry page
- After clicking OK no further changes can be made to the plan of correction unless the plan of correction is reset by IDOH

**SUBMIT PLAN OF  
CORRECTION**

**CANCEL**

## **CMS Revisions to Special Focus Facility (SFF) Program**

On Oct. 21, 2022, CMS released memo [QSO-23-01-NH](#) with revisions to the Special Focus Facility (SFF) Program. The revisions include the following: strengthening the criteria for successful completion of the SFF Program by adding a threshold that prevents a facility from graduating based on the total number of deficiencies cited; considering all facilities cited with Immediate Jeopardy deficiencies on any two surveys while in the SFF Program for discretionary termination from the Medicare and/or Medicaid programs; increasing enforcement actions for SFF Program facilities that have continued noncompliance and little or no demonstrated effort to improve performance; and extending the monitoring period and maintaining readiness to impose progressively severe enforcement actions against nursing homes whose performance declines after graduation from the SFF Program.

CMS has also advised State Survey Agencies to consider a facility's staffing level, in addition to its compliance history, when selecting candidates from their state for inclusion into the SFF Program.

## **CMS Revised Guidance for Staff Vaccination Requirements**

On Oct. 26, 2022, CMS released revised memo [QSO-23-02-ALL](#) with revisions to guidance in Attachment A including the frequency of investigating compliance with the staff vaccination requirements, revised guidance on assigning severity and scope and revised guidance to align with recent changes to CDC recommendations related to testing, quarantine and source control as related to vaccination status.

## **Indiana Healthcare Leadership Conference Presentation Slides, Recordings and SAMHSA Resources Available**

The Indiana Healthcare Leadership Conference "Working Together for Solutions to Mental Health Challenges in Long-Term Care" was held on Oct. 13, 2022, at the Indiana Convention Center in Indianapolis.

Slides are available to view now on the [IDOH Healthcare Leadership Conference webpage](#); recordings of the full presentations will be added in the coming days.

In addition, as Eric Weakly mentioned in his presentation, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) is launching its new [Center of Excellence for Behavioral Health in Nursing Facilities](#). The Center of Excellence for Behavioral Health in Nursing Facilities (COE-NF) will serve as a centralized hub and national model for expanding capacity in nursing facilities to care for residents with a variety of behavioral health needs. Nursing facilities will have the ability to request direct technical assistance through the Center of Excellence's webpage or the national

COE-NF call center. Nursing facilities will work with a behavioral specialist in their region to create a data-driven, customized, quality improvement approach to address the needs of the nursing facility.

The Center of Excellence will also develop and disseminate substance use and mental health curriculum and resources, deliver evidence-based live and on-demand trainings, and promote behavioral health equity and workforce development for staff who serve individuals with Serious Mental Illness (SMI), Serious Emotional Disturbance (SED), Substance Use Disorders (SUD), or Co-occurring Disorder (COD) in nursing facilities. The Center of Excellence website is [https://bit.ly/COE\\_BH\\_NursingFacility](https://bit.ly/COE_BH_NursingFacility); further information and resources will be added as they become available.

## **Civil Money Penalty (CMP) Reinvestment Application – In-Person Visitation Aids – Portable Fans and Portable Room Air Cleaners – Deadline 12/31/2022**

On Feb. 2, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a revised FAQ guidance for Nursing Home Visitation – COVID-19 in Memorandum [QSO-20-39-NH Revised](#). CMS clarified a facility may request the use of Civil Money Penalty (CMP) Reinvestment funds to purchase portable fans and portable room air cleaners with high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA, H-13 or -14) filters to increase or improve air quality. A **maximum use of \$3,000 per facility**, including shipping costs, may be requested.

Expenses incurred on or after the release of Memorandum QSO-20-39-NH FAQ Revised 2/2/2022 are eligible for reimbursement.

CMS has developed an application template for requests for the use of CMP Reinvestment funds to provide nursing homes with in-person visitation aids. Facilities that have not done so already may submit applications to [INCMP@isdh.in.gov](mailto:INCMP@isdh.in.gov) and email questions to Suzanne Williams at [suwilliams@isdh.in.gov](mailto:suwilliams@isdh.in.gov). The deadline to submit applications to IDOH is Dec. 31, 2022.

[Civil Money Penalty \(CMP\) Reinvestment Application Template Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) In-Person Visitation Aids Request Instructions](#)

[CMP Application for In-Person Visitation Aid Requests Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#)

## **Request for Applications for CMP Projects for Antipsychotic Stewardship**

The Indiana Department of Health (IDOH) is exploring options to support a reduction in the unnecessary use of antipsychotic medications for LTC residents in skilled nursing facilities. Possible civil money penalty (CMP) projects would include:

- Education for staff, residents and families regarding antipsychotic medications
- Implementing an antipsychotic stewardship plan in skilled nursing facilities
- Increasing the use of non-pharmacological alternatives and gradual dose reductions, unless clinically contraindicated
- Goals to reduce the unnecessary use of antipsychotic medications in residents

Facilities should be aware of this request for applications, as possible grantees may be contacting them for letters of support for their project. CMS requires letters of support from potential participating facilities when CMP project applications are submitted. If you have any questions, please contact Suzanne Williams at [suwilliams@isdh.in.gov](mailto:suwilliams@isdh.in.gov).