

NMMRA Participates in CMS Region 6 Meeting to Reduce Pressure Ulcers Across the Continuum of Care

Recently, several health care stakeholders, providers, state survey and certification staff members, state ombudsman, Quality Improvement Organization (QIO) representatives and other nursing home, home health and hospital association staff members from Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas met in Dallas to discuss innovative ways to work collaboratively as a region as well as individually to reduce the prevalence of pressure ulcers across the continuum of care. These states represent the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Region 6.

Several states have experienced successful cross-setting collaborative efforts and provided updates on their progress. Many have created educational opportunities for providers in nursing homes, home health agencies and hospitals. In one state, nursing home and hospital staff worked to develop a transfer form for purposes of communicating patient information, especially with regard to patients at high risk for pressure ulcers.

During the two-day meeting, attendees brainstormed about:

- Challenges related to transitions of care. For example, moving a patient/resident from one facility to another
- Challenges associated with preventing pressure ulcer development
- Best practices
- Useful tools and resources currently available
- Statewide strategies for moving forward individually as well as a region

Because Region 6 has made considerable progress in collaborating across settings to reduce pressure ulcers, other regions across the country are looking to Region 6 as a example from which to emulate and learn.