

Improvements in Missouri Nursing Homes Using QIPMO Services

The Quality Improvement Program for Missouri (QIPMO) is a cooperative service of the University of Missouri Sinclair School of Nursing and the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services. It was created to provide nursing home staff technical assistance and support separate from the survey process. The Sinclair School of Nursing recruited gerontological nurse experts to work directly with nursing home staff to help them learn best clinical practices, improve care delivery, and improve the outcomes for nursing home residents.

In 2007-08 there were four gerontological nurse experts with graduate education in nursing working part time for the program throughout the state. They offer consultative and educational assistance to facilities at no charge. The program is funded by Missouri nursing homes, which are required to pay into a Nursing Facility Quality of Care (NFQC) fund. These funds are specifically used to provide training and technical assistance to facilities. (198.018 RSMo). The Nursing Home Reform Bill (SB 556), passed in 2006, generates fines that also pass into the NFQC fund.

The program has been continuously evaluated, with results published. This year is no exception. The gerontological nurses' site visits help nursing home staff improve the care and outcomes of residents in QIPMO facilities, and that reduces the costs of care.

In 2007-08, QIPMO nurses made 855 contacts with 246 different facilities in the state, and they made 417 site visits in 227 different nursing facilities. QIPMO contacts, site visits, and other educational programs helped facility staff improve their care. Subsequently, residents at these facilities had better outcomes, such as less incontinence, fewer urinary tract infections, less time in bed, and fewer physical restraints.

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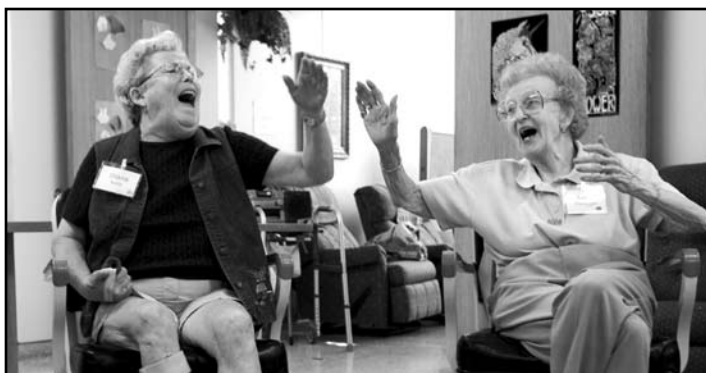
QIPMO at a glance 2007-2008

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- A cost analysis of specific improvements (bladder/bowel incontinence, incontinence for low-risk residents, urinary tract infection, bedfast residents, and daily restraint use) for the period July 2007 through June 2008 revealed that there were 990 residents who avoided the development of these expensive, debilitating problems in nursing homes, at a cost savings to the nursing homes of over \$4.7 million in care costs.
- In a special group of facilities most at risk for quality problems, all but three quality indicators improved in facilities using QIPMO staff.
- Total cost savings for the at-risk group accepting site visit improvements for 2007-08 is \$3,681,821. The QIPMO program is a good investment of the NFQC funds as savings for this at-risk group are more than 10 times the program costs.

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In a special group of facilities most at-risk for quality problems, all but three quality indicators (QIs) improved in facilities using QIPMO staff. All 96 facilities designated as "at risk" were offered QIPMO services; 68 of them accepted help and improved their care as measured by nationally recognized QIs. In these 68 facilities, 704 residents avoided the development of the expensive debilitating problems detected by these QIs.

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Find QIPMO on the Web at www.nursinghomehelp.org