

Nursing Homes: What Now? What Next?

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COVID-19 and the Future of Nursing Homes

- COVID-19 amplified underlying problems
- Drawn unprecedented attention
- Impact on residents, family, staff is visible
- The death toll is staggering
- The disparate impact is obvious
- How does this shape the future?

Solutions Will be Difficult, Very Difficult

- Policy people are studying
- Think tanks are thinking
- State legislatures will be convening
- New federal leadership is arriving
- Congress will be agitating
- “DO SOMETHING” the common denominator

Most Difficult Challenges

- Staffing
- The buildings themselves
- Regulatory oversight
- Alternatives to nursing home care
- FINANCING

Staffing

- Need sufficient number of nurses and nurse aides
- Dedicated staff (consistent assignment)
- Training, including infection control and PPE
- Wages and paid sick leave
 - Goal: reduce staff working multiple jobs
 - Must Include career paths
- Reduction of staff turnover
- More staff requires more money for direct care

The Buildings Themselves

- Nursing homes with large number of residents
- Old buildings and air flow
- Private rooms
- Small household models
- Real estate and venture capital
- Require initial investment, will impact cost of care per day

Regulatory Oversight

- Emphasis on infection control will remain
- Nursing home survey effectiveness
 - State-to-state inconsistency
 - Does it achieve desired results
- Compliance and technical assistance
 - Surveyors cannot provide advice
 - Providers have needed education and T.A.
- Should government pay for provider education

Finance: All Reform Leads Here

- Medicaid
 - Current condition of state budgets
- Medicare
- Medicaid MCO and Medicare Advantage
- Private insurance product reform
- State-level LTC insurance initiatives
- Alternatives to nursing home care

We Must Change the NH Model of Care

- For residents: quality of life and quality of care
- For staff: better paying jobs and careers
- Smaller buildings and outdoor space
- Regulatory emphasis on quality improvement
- A different financing structure
- Robust alternatives to nursing home care

Your To Do List

- Join the conversation about reform
- Bring your expertise to the table
- Hating the problem won't solve it
- Expand home and community-based services
- Remember people with dementia
- Learn everything you can about financing



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