



HEALTH CARE *and you*

The New Health Care Law: What it Means for Nursing Home Care

The new health care law gives consumers more information about nursing homes so they can make better choices when selecting a nursing home, or monitoring the care of loved ones who reside in nursing homes. Nursing home residents will also have more protections from abuse.

Provides more information about nursing home care:

- You will have easier access to more information on nursing homes to help you select a nursing home or monitor the care of a friend or loved one in a nursing home.
- You will be able to get information about many things such as who owns the nursing home, how much the nursing home spends on resident care compared to administrative costs, the hours of nursing care residents receive, staff turnover rates, and the number of complaints and violations.

- Your state must have a comprehensive nursing home website where you can find information about local nursing homes, including inspection and complaint reports. Information like this will help you and your family evaluate your care options.
- You will find more useful information on Medicare's Nursing Home Compare website, www.medicare.gov/NHcompare. This online tool has detailed information to help you find a nursing home that best fits your needs. In addition to what you currently find on that site, you will find links to state nursing home websites and inspection information, a resident rights page, staffing information, and a standardized complaint form you can use.

Increases consumer protections:

- It will be easier for you to file complaints about the quality of care in a nursing

home. Your state will be required to have a process in place to resolve complaints about nursing homes. The process must ensure that you are not retaliated against if you file a complaint. You must be notified that your complaint has been received and how it has been resolved.

- Nursing homes in your state will have to meet new requirements if the facility will be closed. Residents and their family must be told of the closure far enough in advance so they will have time to make other plans for relocation. Your state also has to ensure that all residents have been successfully relocated prior to the closure.
- Your state can participate in a new national grant program to expand criminal background checks to more long-term care employees. Currently, most states require some form of background checks on certified nursing assistants who work in nursing homes. The new grant opportunity will provide funding for states to do background checks of additional types of long-term care employees who come in direct contact with patients and residents. If your state participates, it will receive funding to conduct background checks of employees such as health aides who come into your home, assisted living workers, and more nursing home staff.

Check www.aarp.org/getthefacts frequently for more information.