

Long-Term Care Survey Alert

Quality Assurance Tip: Tap Your QIO's Expertise

Vanquish a persistent problem or become a best practice facility.

If you're in the market for some cost-effective quality improvement assistance, your quality improvement organization may be just the ticket.

"The QIOs have the clinicians and information management specialists to provide assistance," says **Patrician Callen, RN**, a long-term care medical legal consultant in Ashland, MA. "Facilities can access these consultative services and training tools and resources without charge."

Example: Baldomero Lopez State Veterans' Nursing Home worked with its QIO in Florida in a pilot project for pain management years ago. "The QIO helped us move along with our mindset in terms of how we look at quality of care," says Rebecca Yackel, administrator of the facility in Land 'O Lakes, FL.

Tip: The quality organizations are working now to recruit new nursing homes interested in improving the quality of care they offer in the areas of

1. pressure ulcers,
2. physical restraints and/or
3. management of depressive symptoms. Some QIOs also offer nursing-home partners the chance to focus on improving pain management.