

Long-Term Care Survey Alert

Survey & Clinical News To Use

If you had hoped DAVE was going away, you're out of luck.

The government's MDS watchdog has big plans for 2005, as outlined by a **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services'** representative at the Nov. 30, 2004 SNF/LTC Open Door Forum. For example, DAVE will be doing onsite medical review at randomly selected nursing facilities, and will continue to do offsite record reviews. DAVE will use the offsite reviews to develop further areas of MDS vulnerability and integrity issues to target with education.

Look for a DAVE bulletin with MDS coding tips for therapy this month at www.cms.hhs.gov/providers/psc/dave/homepage.asp. For more information, see [CMS' first DAVE bulletin, dated March 2004, available at the same site.](#)

[CMS is now reporting facilities' chronic-care weight loss quality measures on the Nursing Home Compare Web site.](#)

[The QMs are based on nursing facilities' second quarter MDS data for 2004. The public reporting has gone "pretty well" and, so far, providers haven't had a lot of questions or concerns, according to a CMS representative speaking at the Nov. 30 SNF/LTC Open Door Forum.](#)

[The QM includes residents who have experienced weight loss \(K3a coded as 1 on the MDS\) of 5 percent or more in the last 30 days or 10 percent or more in the last six months. Exclusions include only those residents with an admission assessment, or where K3a is missing on the target assessment - or residents who are receiving hospice care \(P1ao = checked\) or whose hospice status is unknown on the target assessment or the most recent full assessment.](#)

[Open wide nursing homes for the latest research findings on dental hygiene and health.](#)

[Germs found in dental plaque have been linked to pneumonia in frail elderly residents of nursing homes, according to a study published in a recent issue of the journal Chest. The researchers conclude that future studies are needed to determine whether daily oral hygiene in hospitalized elderly people would reduce the risk of nosocomial pneumonia.](#)