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CONNOLLY GERIATRIC CONSULTANTS

November 13, 2012

Ms. Paige Hector
123 East Cholla Shadows
Tucson, Arizona 85704

Dear Paige:

I am writing to commend you for your excellent consultation and training for skilled nursing facility (SNF) and long-term nursing facility (NFs) staffs. As a former health insurance specialist at the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) until my retirement in 2008, I was the project officer for the MDS 3.0 validation contract from 2003-2008. I now serve as a CMS MDS 3.0 and geriatric consultant. Through my leadership of national interdisciplinary meetings and my publications, I am keenly aware that the minimum data set (MDS 3.0) requirements, implemented in October 2010, are presenting challenges to nursing home administrators, Directors of Nurses and frontline staff. I became aware of your services as we have prepared for our joint depression care management social work webinar scheduled for November 14, 2012. I have been very impressed that your consultation provides real time and concrete assistance and training including:

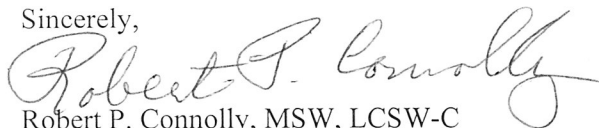
- Preparing SNF/NFs for their annual survey by providing tools and systems that promote strong documentation;
- Analyzing MDS and other data to guide quality improvement activities;
- Evaluating performance on CMS's 5-Star Quality Rating System quality measures;
- Assuring that clinical operations are linked to strong and clear facility policies and procedures; and
- Leading in-service and staff development programs that strengthen communication and coordination for interdisciplinary staffs including professional and certified nurse assistant team members.

I have also been particularly impressed with your knowledge and expertise regarding Quality Indicators Survey (QIS) Critical Element Pathway tools. I was not aware that these evidence-based nursing homes tools and forms can be used in states using either the QIS or the traditional survey process.

I wish you well with your important work and believe that many SNFs and NFs could benefit from the range of services that you offer.

Thanks for all that you do!

Sincerely,



Robert P. Connolly, MSW, LCSW-C

CMS Consultant

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