

August 27, 2019

Amy Hogan
Nursing Facility Policy Manager
The Ohio Department of Medicaid
Of Medicaid
50 W. Town St., 400
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Ms. Hogan,

This is the 3rd and final report for the *Pocket Guide to Pressure Ulcers* project conducted by the Bureau of Regulatory Operations at the Ohio Department of Health. The purpose of this project was to provide direct care staff in nursing homes with a resource to assist with pressure ulcer identification and prevention.

The project was implemented in three phases beginning with October 2018, when multiple copies of the guide were sent to 936 Ohio Medicare/Medicaid certified nursing homes. This represented a three-month delay in the distribution due to agency internal delays in completing the Inter-Agency Agreement between the Ohio Department of Medicaid and the Ohio Department of Health. Due to this delay the analyzed time frames included in the grant proposal had to be adjusted. The reports representing the basis for this final analysis include, the period of October 1, 2017 to September 30, 2018 and October 1, 2018 to July 31, 2019. The second report represents a two-month shortening of the period of analysis which may or may not have a significant impact on the final results. A comparison of the two time frames was undertaken to determine the impact of the distribution of the guides may have had on the prevalence of citations related to the identification, staging, and documentation of pressure ulcers in the identified Medicare/Medicaid certified nursing homes.

For the time frame of October 1, 2017 to September 30, 2018, a report was run for Tag F314 – Treatment/Services to Prevent/Heal Pressure Sores and Tag F686 – Skin Integrity resulting in 194 citations as follows:

- Tag F314 - 49 citations
- Tag F686 – 145 citations

A breakdown of the combined Tag results revealed 27 citations indicated compliance on follow-up survey; these results were removed from the final analysis resulting in:

- 56 citations directly related to identification, staging, and documentation of pressure ulcers.
- 111 citations for other pressure related issues including, but not limited to, failure to provide care per physician's orders, infection control, and dressing changes.

- Of the total of 167 citations related to pressure ulcers and severity levels:
 - 119 citations at a severity level of two - 71%
 - 44 citations at a severity level of three - 27%
 - 3 citations at a severity level of four - 3%

For the timeframe of October 1, 2018 to July 31, 2019, a report was run for Tag F314 – Treatment/Services to Prevent/Heal Pressure Sores and Tag F686 – Skin Integrity resulting in 266 citations as follows:

- Tag F314 - 0
- Tag 686 – 266 citations

A breakdown of the combined Tag results revealed 130 citations indicated compliance on follow-up survey; these results were removed from the final analysis resulting in:

- 48 citations directly related to identification, staging, and documentation of pressure ulcers.
- 88 citations for other pressure related issues including, but not limited to, failure to provide care per physician’s orders, infection control, and dressing changes.
- Of the total of 136 citations related to pressure ulcers and severity levels:
 - 112 citations at a severity level of two – 83%
 - 21 citations at a severity level of three – 15%
 - two citations at a severity level of four – 2%

The first reporting period represents a 33% occurrence of citations directly related to identification, staging, and documentation, while the shortened second reporting period represents a 35 % occurrence. If the second reporting period were adjusted to include the additional two months and the rate of occurrence of the targeted citations during the second reporting period were applied, the results would be practically identical at a rate of 14 citations per month resulting in of 164 citations for the second reporting period versus 167 for the first reporting period. Furthermore, a total of 27 facilities received citations in both reporting periods with only one facility receiving multiple pressure ulcer related citations in the first reporting period, for a total of 28 citations overall. None of the 28 citations were related to identification, staging, or documentation of pressure ulcers.

Ultimately there was no substantial change in the number of citations over the subsequent 10 months from the distribution of the guidance for the 936 nursing homes that were the subject of this project. The severity levels of the citations during the second reporting period, however, were significantly lower. The analysis showed a 12% decrease between the level two and level three severity categories. An insignificant change of 1% occurred at the severity level four. Despite the lack of longitudinal data to unequivocally confirm correlation or causation, based on this analysis, the 12% reduction in severity levels supports the initial hypothesis that the distribution of the *Pocket Guide to Pressure Ulcers* would improve the identification, staging, and documentation of pressure ulcers resulting in improved outcomes.

In addition to distributing the guides to these nursing homes, the Bureau of Regulatory Operations also distributed copies to all long-term care facility surveyors at the Ohio Department of Health. Although not

part of this analysis, the impact of the guide on the observations of the survey staff cannot be ruled out. It is also significant to note that none of the 936 facilities received duplicate citations related to identification, staging, and documentation of pressure ulcers during the second reporting period. Bureau of Regulatory Operations staff may continue to monitor these results over the next several quarters to determine the long-term impact of the distribution of the guides outside the parameters of this project.

Thank you for working with us throughout this project, please feel free to contact me if you need any additional information to complete this project.

Sincerely,

Selina G. Jackson

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