

HCFA Eyes Nursing Homes

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HCFA Administrator Nancy-Ann DeParle announced immediate actions developed by the Clinton administration to ensure quality care in nursing homes. According to the announcement, HCFA has:

- instructed states to impose immediate sanctions, such as fines, against nursing homes in more situations, including any time that a nursing home is found to have caused harm to a resident on consecutive surveys
- increased states' flexibility to encourage speedier action to stop payments for new admissions and to impose other sanctions when nursing homes violate federal health and safety requirements
- enhanced Nursing Home Compare, its consumer Internet resource found at <http://www.medicare.gov/nhcompare/home.asp>, to include information about the prevalence of bedsores, weight loss, and other health conditions among residents in individual nursing homes
- updated its "Guide to Choosing a Nursing Home" to take families and friends step-by-step through the process of identifying an appropriate home for a loved one

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