

NURSING HOME VISITS

There are 15,300 nursing homes with 1.3 million residents (CDC, 2020). Long term care is paid for privately or with Medicaid, and short term care covered by Medicare Part A (or similar benefit). Nursing homes have garnered significant attention leading to several quality improvement initiatives and health policy discussions.

FEDERAL BARRIERS

Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) x483.40(c) (1)

A physician must

- conduct an initial assessment (99304-99306) within 30 days of admission to a LTC facility.
- see the resident every 30 days for the first 90 days
- see the resident at least every 60 days thereafter

These regulatory visits can be delegated to an APRN, as long as the physician sees the resident every other visit (1997)

APRNs who are not employed by the LTC facility may

- conduct a **comprehensive** visit at the time of admission
- write admission orders and treatments
- certify/recertify admissions

APRNs employed by the LTC facility are prohibited from doing so (United States Department of Health and Human Services (2013).

RECOMMENDATIONS

[!\[\]\(4b7a79268f6ba26c1471d4232fffa85a_img.jpg\) Addressing Nursing Home Safety During the COVID-19 Pandemic and Beyond \(GAPNA, 2020\)](#)

Recommendations focus on infection control, increased staffing, increased pay, clinical education, flexibility and autonomy with APRN practice, and improved Medicare and Medicaid funding.

[!\[\]\(b4eeff342f60cc7bcd67d869b4fedca2_img.jpg\) Quality of Care in Nursing Homes Report \(NASEM, 2022\)](#)

Summarizes financial, care delivery and regulatory barriers that have led to an “ineffective, inefficient, fragmented, unsustainable” nursing home industry. Developed seven overall recommendations for improvement.

[!\[\]\(3342c215b2a8b663596a81468d5dc314_img.jpg\) President Biden’s Executive Order \(White House, 2022\)](#)

Priorities include minimum nursing home staffing requirement, reduce resident room crowding, strengthen value-based purchasing (VBP) program, and reinforce safeguards against unnecessary medications and treatments.

[!\[\]\(1f56542a42e2413e44a2b2023033aa2e_img.jpg\) Moving Forward Coalition \(2022\)](#)

Teams (committee members, network of experts, nursing home residents, and the general public) are developing, testing and promoting nine action plans that will improve the way the United States finances, delivers, and regulates care in nursing homes.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Improving Care and Access to Nurses (ICAN) Act H.R. 2713/S. 2418, promotes patient access to health care services delivered by the provider of their choice by **removing outdated Medicare and Medicaid barriers on NPs and other advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs).**