

ISDH Long Term Care
Newsletter Issue # 11-02
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Quality Indicator Survey (QIS) Implementation Update

QIS Coordinator

The Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) has begun implementation of the CMS Quality Indicator Survey (QIS) process. The QIS process applies to nursing home surveys. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) requested that states designate an individual to serve as the state's QIS Coordinator. The QIS Coordinator will oversee the training of staff and providers, assign staff for training, select facilities for surveys under the QIS process, and respond to inquiries about the QIS process.

The ISDH has designated Brenda Buroker to serve as the Indiana QIS Coordinator. This added responsibility is related to her continuing current responsibilities as Survey Manager. For any questions about the QIS process, you are welcome to contact Brenda at the following contact information:

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QIS Update

Classroom Training Completed for First Group

It has been an exciting week here at the ISDH as ten Indiana health facility surveyors began training on the CMS QIS process. Classroom training began on Monday, January 10, 2010, at 8:30 a.m., and concluded on Friday, January 14, at noon. The training was conducted by CMS-approved master

trainers. All ten state surveyors successfully completed the classroom training. Auditing the training were division directors, area supervisors, and information technology staff.

Mock Surveys

Having completed the classroom training, the next step is for trainees to conduct a mock survey. There are two teams of trainees in this group. Each team will conduct one mock survey. Two nursing homes have been identified for mock surveys and have been notified that a mock survey will be conducted at their facility. The mock surveys will begin on Tuesday, January 18. The ISDH surveyors will be accompanied by a CMS trainer.

Change in Implementation Plan

The ISDH anticipated changes in the implementation plan as we progress through the training process. The second group is scheduled to begin classroom training in late April or early May 2011. Because of staffing changes in a couple of survey areas, the ISDH has changed the teams for the second group. Instead of a team from Survey Area 6, a team from Survey Area 4 will begin training in May. Attached is a revised [QIS Implementation Plan](#).

Entrance Conference Documents

During the classroom training, the ISDH was provided with new [Entrance Conference Worksheets](#) that will be used in the QIS process. A copy of those forms are attached for your review.

Holiday Schedule

The ISDH will be closed on Monday, January 17, 2011, in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. The ISDH will reopen on Tuesday, January 18.

It is always exciting to begin something new. The ISDH is excited to learn the new QIS process and implement throughout the state. The ISDH learned a lot this week in working with the QIS trainers and we thank them for their assistance.

Best wishes for the coming week.

Terry Whitson
Assistant Commissioner
Indiana State Department of Health

The logo for the Indiana State Department of Health, featuring a green gradient background with the text "Indiana State Department of Health" in white.

For additional information and resources on the Quality Indicator Survey process, go to the ISDH QIS Resource Center at <http://www.in.gov/isdh/25023.htm>.