

ISDH Long Term Care
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Dining Practice Standards

The Pioneer Network Food and Dining Clinical Standards Task Force recently released its 62-page [New Dining Practice Standards](#).

In response to concerns on physical environment and dining policies in nursing homes, in 2010 the Pioneer Network and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) held their second national symposium - *Creating Home II: National Symposium on Culture Change and the Food and Dining Requirements*. The Symposium brought together a wide diversity of stakeholders and resulted in the Pioneer Network Food and Dining Clinical Standards Task Force. The New Dining Practice Standards document reflects evidence-based research available to date as well as current thinking and consensus.

Indiana Healthcare Associated Infection Initiative

As part of the Indiana Healthcare Associated Infection Initiative, the Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) completed the second of three online educational modules on healthcare associated infections (HAI). The new module is on "Speaking up to prevent infections" and is available on the ISDH HAI Resource Center Web page (<http://www.in.gov/isdh/24769.htm>). The third module is on "What are HAIs?" and should be completed in the next couple of weeks.

Independent Informal Dispute Resolution Process

Resulting from the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, CMS recently provided guidance to state survey agencies regarding independent informal dispute resolution (IIDR). As part of the Act, states will be required to provide independent informal dispute resolution to nursing homes as part of the certification process.

The ISDH has had an independent informal dispute resolution process since 2004. The current process allows for providers to request independent informal dispute resolution. The ISDH approved MPRO to conduct the independent reviews. Under the existing system, the providers pay for the costs of the independent informal dispute resolution.

Effective January 1, 2012, state survey agencies will be required to provide the option of an independent

informal dispute resolution. The primary change will be that the cost of the independent informal dispute resolution will be paid by the state survey agencies through its CMS budget.

In preparation for this transition, the ISDH is terminating its existing independent informal dispute resolution option through MPRO effective immediately. Any requests for the provider-paid MPRO review already in process will be completed through that process. No new requests for independent informal dispute resolution will be accepted until a new system is in place. During this interim period, the only available informal dispute resolution process available to nursing homes will be the traditional ISDH IDR process with ISDH staff.

The ISDH is currently developing a new independent informal dispute resolution system consistent with the federal guidance. Details on the new process will be provided once they are completed. Because of the payment component, the ISDH will need to contract with a qualified entity to provide the independent process. The ISDH expects the contract process to take a couple of months. The ISDH hopes to have a new independent informal dispute resolution process in place early in 2012.

Staff Update

The following is a staff update for September 2011 for the ISDH Division of Long Term Care.

Promotions:

Janelyn Kulik - promoted to Public Health Nurse Surveyor Supervisor for Survey Area 1

New Long Term Care Surveyors:

Susan Bruck - Public Health Nurse Surveyor - Survey Area 1

That is all for today. I look forward to seeing you next Thursday, October 27, at the ISDH Long Term Care Leadership Conference.

Terry Whitson
Assistant Commissioner
Indiana State Department of Health