

**Purpose:** To provide nursing homes (NHs) with a side-by-side comparison of two new quality improvement (QI) tools. HSAG is committed to working with NH teams to improve health care quality.

- Notes:**
- NHIFT— Nursing Home Improvement and Feedback Tool (“nifty”)
  - STAR —Setting Targets-Achieving Results Web site
  - NHIFT and STAR data will not be shared with the SSA or CMS, except in aggregate form.
  - NHs will not be evaluated on their NHIFT process measure scores *or* their targets.

	NHIFT	STAR
<b>Purpose</b>	Process Improvement	Target Setting
<b>Summary</b>	Abstract medical record data for recently admitted residents and view adherence to recommended processes of care for four clinical topics.	View NH QM data trends for four clinical topics, select one of several available methods for target setting (e.g., a percent reduction), and set yearlong goals.
<b>What It Is</b>	A free <b>electronic data collection tool</b> that consists of a series of questions NHs answer using medical record abstraction. The NH then receives several process of care measure scores for each clinical topic.	A <b>Web site</b> NHs access via the Internet and use to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Select methods for target setting</li> <li>▪ Submit targets</li> </ul>
<b>NH Purpose</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Track adherence to recommended processes of care</li> <li>▪ Compare processes of care to other NHs (aggregate data)</li> <li>▪ Guide care by identifying recommended processes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Set targets (i.e., goals)</li> <li>▪ View trend reports</li> <li>▪ Compare to peers</li> <li>▪ Incorporate QI principles by setting targets</li> </ul>
<b>Clinical Topics</b>	Processes of care for four clinical topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ High-Risk Pressure Ulcers</li> <li>▪ Restraints</li> <li>▪ Depression</li> <li>▪ Chronic Care Pain</li> </ul>	Current QMs for four clinical topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ High-Risk Pressure Ulcers</li> <li>▪ Restraints</li> <li>▪ Depression</li> <li>▪ Chronic Care Pain</li> </ul>
<b>Data Type</b>	Provider-abstracted processes of care	Self-reported clinical outcome targets
<b>Format</b>	Computer application installed on a NH computer	Web site

	NHIFT	STAR
<b>Recommended System Requirements</b>	<p>A PC workstation computer with at least the following:*</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 500 MHZ processor</li> <li>▪ Windows 2000</li> <li>▪ Pentium 3</li> <li>▪ 256 megabytes (MB) of RAM</li> <li>▪ 1 gigabyte hard drive space available</li> </ul> <p><i>*These are the same suggested requirements necessary to upgrade NH systems for RAVEN.</i></p>	<p>Any computer with an Internet connection (i.e., modem, T-1 line, DSL).*</p> <p><i>*NHs with faster connections will have easier access to STAR. However, STAR has been tested with low-speed connections and does accommodate them.</i></p>
<b>Data Source</b>	Medical records	Publicly reported QM scores
<b>Data Level</b>	Resident-level process data for residents admitted the previous month	Facility-level clinical outcome targets
<b>Submission Method</b>	Electronic submission to the QNet Exchange Data Warehouse (via Web connection)	Electronic (real-time via Web site)* <i>*If the NH does not have a Web connection, HSAG can submit targets on the NH's behalf.</i>
<b>Submission Time Windows</b>	Must be submitted within 45 days after each calendar month ends	New or revised targets can be submitted at any time
<b>Frequency</b>	Monthly for residents admitted the previous month	As often as once per quarter * <i>* NHs will not be evaluated based on whether or not they achieve the targets they set.</i>
<b>NH Support</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A tool kit containing resources and materials from HSAG</li> <li>▪ Help Menu within the computer application</li> <li>▪ A User's Guide</li> <li>▪ Training and assistance from HSAG</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A tool kit containing resources and materials from HSAG</li> <li>▪ A User's Guide</li> <li>▪ Training and assistance from HSAG</li> </ul>
<b>Available Date</b>	October 2005	June 2005

**Questions?** Information about both NHIFT and STAR is available on MedQIC ([www.medqic.org](http://www.medqic.org)). Please contact Joe Bestic, NHA, BA, HSAG Clinical Quality Specialist, at 602.745.6205 or [jbestic@azqio.sdps.org](mailto:jbestic@azqio.sdps.org) with additional questions.