

Date

Letters to the Editor

Newspaper

Address

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To the Editor:

Your story on the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) 5-Star Rating System for nursing homes - "(insert story headline) -" December 19 reinforces the need for government and providers to come together and ensure that there are two types of nursing homes: the excellent and the non-existent.

The 5-Star Rating System is a great idea prematurely implemented. We support a consumer-friendly nursing home rating system based on reliable quality information that the public can understand. But the new system is poorly planned and prematurely implemented. Working in the mission-driven senior services profession (include length in field if wish to for credibility), I see skilled nursing services delivered daily and I can tell you first hand that the disparity indicated in the CMS rating system is misleading. Ultimately, personal visits are the best source of information when determining where to find the best care setting.

CMS has a key responsibility for defining quality based on data that is accurate, reliable, timely and friendly. This is essential for the public to trust not only skilled nursing facilities but the rating system itself. Together, government and providers must be responsible, transparent and accountable for taking care of vulnerable seniors. Consumers deserve nothing less than an accurate, reliable seal of approval for the best nursing homes in America.

Sincerely,

Name

Title

Organization

(Please note that many media outlets require specific information to confirm the identity of the letter writer, such as phone number, e-mail address, etc.; be sure to check what information is needed and include it with the letter.)