Frequently Asked Questions

Why is CMS posting this data?
Part of CMS's commitment to the American public is to provide stakeholders with as much information as possible about nursing homes in order to support consumers in making informed decisions about their healthcare and to promote safety and quality in nursing homes. For example, consumers can use an affiliated entity's average staffing metrics to determine if a nursing home they are considering is affiliated with owners who provide lower-than-average staffing across all of their facilities, perhaps prompting them to select a different nursing home. Additionally, states can also use the aggregate performance of affiliated entities to help guide licensure decisions. For example, an affiliated entity with a poor record of health inspections and staffing across facilities may be denied by a state's licensure agency if it requests to acquire a new nursing home during a change of ownership request.

What is CMS doing with groups of nursing homes with poor performance?
CMS does not have the authority to take action on groups of nursing homes. Our authority and obligation are to ensure every nursing home is compliant with our federal requirements to protect each resident's health and safety regardless of affiliation. We are posting it to empower stakeholders to better inform their decisions about nursing home care and quality.

How should consumers use the data presented here?
The information that will be posted is a tool to help guide consumers' choices about their care, which can help them identify safety and quality trends across a set of owners and operators. However, it is important to note that it is only one of many tools that consumers and their families should use in selecting a nursing home that will fit their individual needs. Consumers should use the affiliated entity data in tandem with individual nursing home information posted on Nursing Home Care Compare, direct communication with nursing homes, and prospective nursing home visits to get a full picture of whether a nursing home will be right for them. We also encourage consumers to seek advice from their doctor or a long-term care ombudsman.

What is the source of this data?
This data is gathered from the CMS Nursing Home Care Compare 5-Star Rating System and the Skilled Nursing Facility Quality Reporting Program (SNF QRP) data. Affiliated entities are identified using nursing home ownership data available in the Provider Enrollment, Chain and Ownership System (PECOS). For more information on nursing home ownership, see the CMS Skilled Nursing Facility Enrollments dataset.

Why are certain fields blank for certain affiliated entities?
Cases where a field is blank for an entire affiliated entity may be due to a number of factors – for example, all nursing homes in the affiliated entity may be newly certified nursing home with less than 12-15 months of data available, or it may be that all nursing homes grouped in the affiliated entity did not submit data or submitted data that did not meet the criteria required to calculate the measure. For more information about measure exclusions, please see the CMS Nursing Home Care Compare 5-Star Rating System Users' Guide.

To whom should I reach out if I have any questions about the data presented here?
Users who have questions or recommended changes to the data presented here may contact NH_Affiliation_Inquiries@cms.hhs.gov for additional information.