



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES  
*Aging and Long-Term Support Administration*  
*PO Box 45600, Olympia, Washington 98504-5600*

August 16, 2024

**AL TSA: NH #2024-039**  
**ENHANCED FACILITY-WIDE ASSESSMENT**

Dear Nursing Facility/Home Administrator:

On May 10, 2024, CMS published new regulations under §483.71, Facility Assessment, as part of the Medicare and Medicaid Programs; Minimum Staffing Standards for Long-Term Care (LTC) Facilities. These new provisions become effective 90 days after publication and must be implemented by August 8, 2024.

The facility-wide assessment must include an evaluation of diseases, conditions, physical or cognitive limitations of the resident population, acuity (the level of severity of residents' illnesses, physical, mental, and cognitive limitations, and conditions) and any other pertinent information about the resident population that may affect the services the facility must provide.

The facility must use the enhanced facility-wide assessment to:

- §483.71(c)(1) Inform staffing decisions to ensure there are enough staff with the appropriate competencies and skill sets necessary to care for its residents' needs as identified through resident assessments and plans of care as required in § 483.35(a)(3).
- §483.71(c)(2) Consider specific staffing needs for each resident unit in the facility and adjust as necessary based on changes to its resident population.
- §483.71(c)(3) Consider specific staffing needs for each shift, such as day, evening, night, and adjust as necessary based on any changes to its resident population.
- §483.71(c)(4) Develop and maintain a plan to maximize recruitment and retention of direct care staff.
- §483.71(c)(5) Inform contingency planning for events that do not require activation of the facility's emergency plan, but do have the potential to affect resident care, such as, but not limited to, the availability of direct care nurse staffing or other resources needed for resident care.

The assessment of the resident population should also contribute to identifying additional needs for residents, such as the physical space, equipment, assisted technology, individual communication devices, or other material resources that are needed to provide the required care and services to residents.

When conducting the facility-wide assessment, the facility must ensure active involvement from key individuals to include but not limited to, a member of the governing body, the medical director, an administrator, director of nursing, RNs, LPNs, and NAs. The facility must also solicit and consider input received from residents, resident representatives, and family members.

ALTSA Provider Letter: **ENHANCED FACILITY-WIDE ASSESSMENT**

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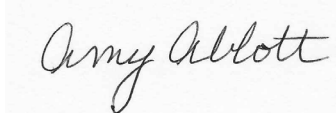
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Please review the following resources for detailed information to further inform use of the new and enhanced facility-wide assessment:

- [CMS-3442-F](#)
- [42 Part 483.71](#)
- [QSO-24-13-NH](#)
- [CMS Nursing Homes webpage.](#)

If you have any questions, please contact **Jodi Lamoreaux**, Nursing Home Policy Program Manager, at (360)464-0487 or [Jodi.Lamoreaux1@dshs.wa.gov](mailto:Jodi.Lamoreaux1@dshs.wa.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Amy Abbott". The signature is written in a cursive style and is placed on a light gray rectangular background.

Amy Abbott, Director  
Residential Care Services

DSHS: *"Transforming Lives"*