



From: [Jane McGarvey](#)
To: [DH, LTCRegs](#)
Cc: [Mary Knapp](#); phil_debaun@foulkeways.org
Subject: [External] Opposition to Proposed Department of Health Regulations for Long-Term Care Nursing Facilities
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To: Lori Gutierrez, Deputy Director, Office of Policy

As a physician who has worked in busy Emergency Departments, I know what the documentation burden can be like in order to comply with Medicare requirements. Foulkeways made the decision to withdraw from the Medicare program in 2017 precisely so that the staff would not be time-pressured with documentation so that they could spend more time with the residents who need them.

My step-father spent 2 weeks in Foulkeways' Gwynedd House nursing facility before he died. The care that was given to him and our family during this time was excellent. My mother is now in Abington House which is the assisted living section. She has dementia and frequently forgets that her husband has passed away. She gets very upset that she can't find him. The activities program provided by Foulkeways and the personal care given by the RNs and aides are vital to my mother's mental health. I hate to think what would happen to my mother if she had less social interaction with the staff because they were sitting in front of their computers documenting. And I want to feel sure that, if my mother needs to be transferred to Gwynedd House in the future, that the care there will still be top-notch.

A change like this at this time, when COVID is causing staff shortages, would be especially burdensome and would surely lead to poor care.

Foulkeways receives no funding from Medicare or Medicaid. Foulkeways is funded by older adults on fixed incomes, such as my mother. Therefore, they should not be subject to regulations designed to meet the Federal Conditions of Medicare and Medicaid for reimbursement.

Please reconsider imposing this onerous regulation on nursing facilities that do not benefit from Medicare/Medicaid funding; let them continue to provide the excellent care and attention to residents that they have been.

Sincerely,

Jane McGarvey, MD