



**From:** [Rita Porreca](#)  
**To:** [DH\\_LTCRegs](#)  
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**Subject:** [External] Proposed DOH Regulations  
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Lori Gutierrez  
Deputy Director  
Office of Policy

Dear Ms. Gutierrez,

Pursuant to proposed Department of Health Regulations that replace 28 PA. Code Chapters 201 and 211, I would like to offer the following testimony and request a hearing.

As current independent resident of Foulkeways, a continuing care community in Gwynedd, PA, I would like to share with you several instances of the exceptional care and treatment of patients in Gwynedd House, Foulkeway's skilled nursing facility.

From 2009 to 2012, my mother was a patient in Gwynedd House, the skilled nursing facility at Foulkeways, after suffering a stroke. Her care and treatment was excellent. The nursing staff are highly trained and skilled, personally know all the residents and their families and provide a home atmosphere for all residents. Consultations with families throughout the care process is open and supportive for all involved. In my Mom's final days, the hospice experience was filled with dignity and compassion for my Mom and the entire family. Because of my Mom's wonderful experience as a resident of Foulkeways for almost 15 years with her final days as in-patient in the skilled nursing facility, I chose Foulkeways as my retirement home.

In 2018 after surgery, I spent three days post-hospitalization as an inpatient in the skilled nursing facility. All my needs were met from the moment I arrived. The equipment that I needed to make my stay as safe and comfortable as possible was provided. Many of the nursing staff I already knew from the time my mother was there. I had ancillary services, such as PT and OT came directly to me and my peace of mind and felt security aided my recovery.

In 2021 my husband spent six weeks in Foulkeways skilled nursing facility after thyroid cancer surgery with a tracheotomy and nasal feeding tube. I can not fully express the wonderful treatment care he received. He was placed in a room immediately next to the nursing station so that he was close to the nursing staff in an emergency. In the middle of the night I was called because the night nurse suspected an infection developing and immediate action was taken. He spent another week back at Fox Chase Cancer Center dealing with that. His weaning from the tracheotomy and feeding tube were dealt with all in an atmosphere that was highly skilled medically but as "normal" home environment as well. Nurses do not push around computer carts. Their nursing station is a lovely desk with a computer on it like you would have in a home with the actual nursing station charts, meds and supplies in a separate

room behind it. All to give the patients a feeling of home and not a hospital.

Imposing additional regulations to be Medicare compliant would take away from the excellent patient care and “normal” living environment that Foulkeways’s skilled nursing facility has worked so hard to achieve. I choose Foulkeways because it was different and stood out as excellent form all the other skilled nursing facility.

Thank you for your consideration. I would be happy to testify at a hearing on this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

**Rita Porreca**  
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**Gwynedd, PA 19436**

*...because relationships matter*