



From: Woodward, Faith
To: DH_LTCRegs
Subject: [External] RE: Comments on proposed SNF regulations
Date: Thursday, June 23, 2022 9:43:22 AM
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image002.png

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To the PA Department of Health:

I, too, am writing to express my deep concern regarding the proposed new staffing ratios requiring nursing homes in PA to staff at a 4.1 HPPD level. While I applaud the Department's commitment to quality of care for our seniors, I am not sure how the Department believes this new staffing level can be enacted, given the serious and ongoing shortages of RNs, LPNs and CNAs willing to work in long-term care settings. Barclay Friends currently has a 16-bed wing closed due to lack of available staff. The new regulations will likely cause us to close additional beds and this is not financially sustainable for our community. Barclay Friends is a five-star nursing home with a great reputation for quality care. We are a preferred provider for the Penn Medicine and Main Line Health hospital systems, and we participate in the Medicaid program, providing the highest-quality care to some of the Commonwealth's most financially challenged senior citizens.

Agency nursing is not a solution. Currently, we attempt to fill unfilled shifts with agency nurses and CNAs. But frequently, these agency nurses and CNAs (who have no commitment or loyalty to our residents) cancel at the last minute or simply do not show up. Using RNs or LPNs to fill unfilled CNA shifts is also not a solution, as this is economically disastrous for our budget.

Please don't tie our hands further by implementing an impossible burden on our already stressed and burdened system of care. Thank you for your consideration.

Faith C Woodward

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Barclay Friends

A KENDAL AFFILIATE

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