



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

APR 16 2002

Administrator  
Washington, DC 20201

The Honorable Henry A. Waxman  
Ranking Minority Member  
House Committee on Government Reform  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Waxman:

Thank you for your letter concerning the placement of complaint data on the Nursing Home Compare Web site. We very much appreciate your support for the Web site and your interest in improving it.

We have developed a plan to display deficiencies that result from complaint investigations on the Nursing Home Compare Web site and we have included many of your comments. Our plan is to make these data available on the Web site in May.

Please note that later this month we will be launching the pilot of our Nursing Home Quality Initiative as part of Nursing Home Compare. This effort is a three-part initiative that consists of regulation and enforcement efforts, improved consumer information on the quality of care in nursing homes, and continual quality improvement efforts designed to improve the quality of care in nursing homes. The regulatory and enforcement efforts will continue to be executed by state survey and certification agencies. The consumer information and quality improvement efforts, which are the focus of the initiative, will be performed by the state quality improvement organizations that are contracted with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

I look forward to continuing to work with you to improve the quality of information we communicate to Medicare beneficiaries and Medicaid recipients. An identical letter is being sent to Senator Grassley, who cosigned your letter.

Sincerely,

*Tom Scully*  
Thomas A. Scully

*I hope you will be  
happy with our quality initiative.  
We are briefing the committee staff.  
Tom*