

NEWS

from the American Society of Consultant Pharmacists

LONG-TERM CARE PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES FORM LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

(February 20, 2007-Alexandria, VA) Four organizations representing the key professions – administrators, directors of nursing, medical directors and consultant pharmacists – that provide leadership in long-term care and with roles that are defined by regulation, have joined together to deliver a consistent message on behalf of their members through a new coalition, the Long Term Care Professional Leadership Council (Council).

The Council was formed to foster collaboration to identify and promote comprehensive approaches to defining and meeting quality standards for long-term care facilities and the care of their residents, through efforts that include:

- Advancing consistent standards, positions, and recommendations pertaining to long-term care
- Promoting evidence-based cross-disciplinary protocols for care and for operational issues
- Developing and coordinating cross-disciplinary educational programs
- Overcoming political, social, and economic obstacles to coordinated, consistent care instead of fragmentation and excessive competition in long-term care
- Establishing accountability for identifying and meeting standards of care
- Promoting effective root cause analysis of clinical and operational problems
- Identifying and promoting optimal approaches to providing long-term care and services
- Promoting enlightened discussion about how to advance the quality of services for residents of long-term care facilities.

The Council believes that there is great potential to improve quality in long-term care facilities by consistently using basic proven approaches to managing systems and providing clinical care. Council members are committed to advancing these approaches along with their colleagues in the trade associations, the government, and consumer advocates.

These professions stand apart because they have direct personal responsibility for running nursing homes and for providing and overseeing direct care to all nursing home residents. Their members make the day-to-day clinical and operational decisions that directly affect the lives of the 1.5 million individuals who live or receive short-term health care services in the nation's nursing homes. Their role is further enhanced by both regulatory mandates and by their own professional standards.

As a council, they intend to identify and promote areas of agreement about common issues and concerns as well as how to attain desired goals. Future plans include outreach to the full spectrum of stakeholders.

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The American Society of Consultant Pharmacists, the recognized expert in geriatric pharmacotherapy, is the international professional association that provides leadership, education, advocacy, and resources to advance the practice of consultant and senior care pharmacy. ASCP's 8,000 members manage and improve drug therapy and improve the quality of life of geriatric patients and other individuals residing in a variety of environments, including nursing facilities, subacute care and assisted living facilities, psychiatric hospitals, hospice programs, and in-home and community-based care. Visit ASCP's Web site at <http://www.ascp.com>.

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