

Comparing the Florida Nursing Home Guide to the
Federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Nursing Home Compare
Five-Star Quality Rating System

Florida Nursing Home Guide: <http://ahcaxnet.fdhc.state.fl.us/nhguide/>

Federal Nursing Home Compare Five-Star Quality Rating System: <http://www.medicare.gov/NHCompare/home.asp>

Both web sites contain helpful information about nursing homes and can be used together with other information (such as a visit to the nursing home and information from your health care provider) to make informed choices when seeking nursing home care. The primary difference between the nursing home information available on the two web sites is described in the table below.

	Florida Nursing Home Guide	Federal Nursing Home Compare - Five-Star Quality Rating System
Nursing Homes Included	All licensed nursing homes in Florida	All federally certified nursing homes in the nation (excludes four nursing homes in Florida that are licensed but not certified for Medicare or Medicaid)
Star Rankings	Stars are based upon violations identified during an inspection.	Stars based upon certain violations identified during an inspection, staffing information, and quality measure information.
Overall Star Rank	The Overall Star Rank is based upon points for federal nursing home violations including: "F" tags - Health and Services and "K" tags - Fire/Life Safety	The Overall Star Rank is based upon the Health Inspection Star rank which is adjusted by the Quality Measure and Staffing Stars to determine the Overall Star ranking
Star Ranking Subcategories	The Nursing Home Guide also displays subsets of violations in the following areas: Quality of Care Quality of Life Administration Nutrition and Hydration Restraints and Abuse Pressure Ulcers Decline Dignity	Nursing Home Compare displays subcategories of star ranks for: Health Inspection Quality Measures Staffing Each described below.
Health Inspection Star Rank	See Overall Stars	Certain federal nursing home violations are given points used to determine the Star rank: "F" tags - Health and Services ("K" tags - Fire/Life Safety are excluded)
Time Frame for Violations	Violations that occurred during the last 30 months for all recertification and complaints inspections are used	Violations that occurred during the last 3 recertification surveys (which occur every 6-15 months), and last 3 years of complaints are used
Weight of Violations	Violations are given points based on severity and scope (see chart A) Additional points for certain critical violations All inspections have equal weight	Violations are given points based on severity and scope (see chart B) Additional points for "Substandard quality of care" violations and additional follow up visits Most recent recertification inspections carry heavier weight: Most recent - 1/2 weight (50%) Second most recent - 1/3 weight (33.3%) Third most recent - 1/6 weight (16.7%)
Violation Star Assignment	Stars are allocated based upon a comparison with other nursing homes in the inspection region (11 geographic areas in Florida) Star Ranking: 5 Stars: Top 20% 4 Stars: 21% - 40% 3 Stars: 41% - 60% 2 Stars: 61% - 80% 1 Stars: Bottom 20%	Stars are allocated based upon a comparison with other nursing homes in the state Star Ranking: 5 Stars: Top 10% 4 to 2 Stars: Middle 70% spread among 2 to 4 stars in 23.33% segments 1 Stars: Bottom 20%
Quality Measures	No information included	A Star ranking for Quality Measures (QM) is included. QMs are aggregate resident assessment information based on the residents of the specific facility, such as how many residents acquired pressure sores. Stars are allocated based on a distribution of national and state results
Star Assignment		
Staffing data	No information included	Star rankings for staffing are included. Staffing data is collected from each nursing home at the time of their recertification inspection and presents staffing levels for a brief period prior to the inspection. The nursing home staffing level is compared with the residents needs (acuity) of current residents and additional points are given for higher levels of registered nurses
Star Assignment		Stars are allocated based on a distribution of national results

Special Focus Facilities	No information included	Each state has a small number of nursing homes that have been designated as federal "special focus facilities". These nursing homes are designated with a symbol and their star ranking may be affected.
Frequency of Updates	Quarterly updates on the website (An annual book (hard copy) is also produced)	Monthly updates on the website

Federal Hotlines

Providers- Five-Star Helpline 1-800-839-9290. The line will be open from 8:00 AM - 8:00 PM ET 12/16/08 through 01/05/09. Exceptions include: 8:00 - 12:00 PM ET on Christmas Eve, closed 12/25 & 12/26, open from 8:00 - 12:00 PM ET on New Year's Eve, and closed 01/01/09.

Consumers- Direct to the 1-800-MEDICAR line for Five –Star questions or email BetterCare@cms.hhs.gov

Chart A: Florida Nursing Home Guide Deficiencies (Violations) Points

Severity				
Immediate Jeopardy to Resident Health or Safety	J=32	K=45	L=60	
Actual Harm that is not Immediate Jeopardy	G=16	H=22	I=28	
No Actual Harm with Potential for more than Minimal Harm	D=5	E=8	F=11	
No Actual Harm with Potential for Minimal Harm	A=0	B=1	C=3	
	Isolated	Pattern	Widespread	Scope

- Points are doubled for 58 specific (critical) violations

Chart B: Federal CMS Nursing Home Compare Five-Star Quality Rating System Health Inspection Star Ranking Points for Survey Deficiency Score: Weights for Different Types of Deficiencies

Severity	Scope		
	Isolated	Pattern	Widespread
Immediate jeopardy to resident health or safety	J 50 points (75 points)	K 100 points (125 points)	L 150 points (175 points)
Actual harm that is not immediate jeopardy	G 20 points	H 35 points (40 points)	I 45 points (50 points)
No actual harm with potential for more than minimal harm that is not immediate jeopardy	D 4 points	E 8 points	F 16 points (20 points)
No actual harm with potential for minimal harm	A 0 point	B 0 points	C 0 points

Note: Figures in parentheses indicate points for deficiencies that are for substandard quality of care. Shaded cells denote deficiency scope/severity levels that constitute substandard quality of care if the requirement which is not met is one that falls under the following federal regulations: 42 CFR 483.13 resident behavior and nursing home practices; 42 CFR 483.15 quality of life; 42 CFR 483.25 quality of care.

Source: Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services