

# GNYHA Foundation Nursing Facility Project Begins Phase Two with Payment Reform

November 1, 2016

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Today, November 1, is the “go live” day for 60 nursing facilities and over 200 practitioners across New York to begin a new phase of GNYHA Foundation’s project to reduce avoidable hospitalizations. As part of the project, these nursing facilities and practitioners are now permitted to bill for special payments to incentivize better care in the nursing facilities for long-stay residents. The list of participating nursing facilities is attached. Participation in this New York-Reducing Avoidable Hospitalization (NY-RAH) project is available in New York only through GNYHA Foundation.

In March, GNYHA Foundation received an award from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) under the *CMS Initiative to Reduce Avoidable Hospitalizations among Nursing Facility Residents – Payment Reform*. Referred to as “Phase Two,” CMS is testing the effect of providing new Medicare Part B incentive payments to nursing facilities and practitioners to provide cost-effective, appropriate treatment for certain qualifying conditions at the nursing facility—reducing the potential for an avoidable hospital transfer. GNYHA Foundation, in collaboration with the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, is one of six organizations from across the country currently working on the CMS Initiative.

Phase One focused on clinical and process-oriented interventions, but did not address existing payment policies that may impact quality of care and lead to avoidable hospitalizations. CMS added payment reform interventions for Phase Two for practitioners to treat nursing facility residents in place for six qualifying conditions (pneumonia, dehydration, congestive heart failure, urinary tract infection, skin ulcers/cellulitis, and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease/asthma) and to conduct interdisciplinary care conferences. Participating nursing facilities are also able to bill a new payment code to provide the enhanced care necessary for treating the qualifying conditions within their

facilities. For more information about GNYHA Foundation's project to reduce avoidable hospitalizations, see [Skyline News In-depth](#) (dated October 10, 2016).

Please contact [Megan Burns](#) if you have any questions.

**Kenneth E. Raske**

#### **Contacts**

**Kenneth E. Raske**  
President & Chief Executive Officer