

Protecting and Preserving Quality Long Term Care Options for the Citizens of New York

New York’s not-for-profit long term care providers are a vital part of our State’s health care system, and an important driver of quality and innovation for the residents of New York. Committed to furnishing nurturing long term care while promoting independence and dignity, not-for-profit long term care providers deliver innovation while offering steadfast dedication to New York’s most vulnerable residents. As illustrated in the tables, below, not-for-profit nursing homes excel in setting quality standards that represent a benchmark for all to strive to reach. They are vital leaders excelling on broad measures of quality as well as specific outcomes measures such as avoiding unnecessary hospitalizations and achieving low nursing staff turnover rates.

Unfortunately, not-for-profit providers have been particularly hard-hit by recent Medicaid reimbursement changes, and they will continue to be challenged in their ability to provide standard-setting high-quality care if they lack appropriate funding. During this year’s budget process and in the implementation of Governor Cuomo’s Medicaid Redesign Team recommendations, it is especially important to make sure that any policies enacted are consistent with supporting a strong and sustainable not-for-profit long term care presence in our State.

Not-for-Profit Leadership in Overall Quality Performance

The New York State Nursing Home Quality Pool scores each nursing home’s performance against its peers in three areas: 1) quality measures, 2) compliance, and 3) potentially avoidable hospitalizations. Not-for-profit nursing homes rise consistently above the statewide average.

Not-for-Profit Leadership in Overall Quality Performance

	% in Top Tier	% in Top Two Tiers	% in Top Three Tiers
Statewide	19.1%	37.1%	55.0%
Not-for-Profit	24.4%	46.1%	66.4%

Not-for-Profit Commitment to Reducing Avoidable Hospitalizations

Not-for-profit nursing homes have demonstrated their commitment to helping their residents avoid the risks that accompany transitions between nursing facilities and hospitals, as well as hospital stays. Avoidable hospitalizations are expensive and disorienting for frail elders and people with disabilities. The table, below, underscores the commitment of not-for-profit nursing homes to lowering hospitalization rates.

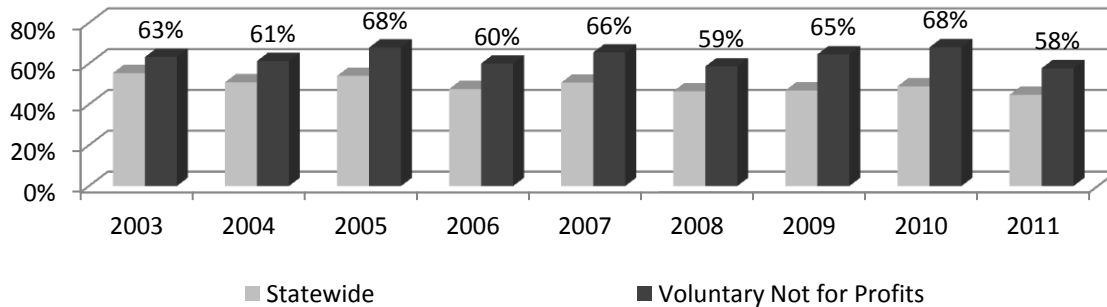
Measure	NFP	FP	Public	All
<i>Percent of residents hospitalized during past year or since admission, whichever first</i>				
<i>Length of stay less than or equal to 100 days</i>	6.1	8.2	7.0	7.2
<i>Length of stay greater than 100 days</i>	24.5	31.4	23.2	27.7
<i>Hospitalization rate: number of hospitalizations per 10,000 resident stays (age adjusted)</i>				
<i>Length of stay less than or equal to 100 days</i>	20.0	26.5	19.7	23.2
<i>Length of stay greater than 100 days</i>	10.3	12.9	8.2	11.3

(Source: LeadingAge New York, *New York State Nursing Homes: Sponsorship as a Defining Factor in Outcomes*)

Financial Challenges

Although not-for-profits deliver unmatched quality care with compassion, they are disproportionately financially disadvantaged within New York State. As illustrated in the table, below, more than half of the not-for-profit nursing homes in New York State consistently have lost money on operations during the last ten years.

% of Nursing Homes Losing Money on Operations



We urge our State lawmakers to commit to protecting our not-for-profit long term care organizations as they debate and take action on the proposed State budget. As managed care is implemented in the long term care sector in the coming years, it is especially important to protect and sustain a healthy not-for-profit long term care sector, which is critical to providing innovative care, quality, and choice for New York's most vulnerable residents.