



Human Services Department  
Medical Assistance Division  
**Nursing Facility (NF) Level of Care (LOC) Criteria**  
Fact Sheet

**Why were the Low (L) NF and High (H) NF criteria revised January 1, 2014?**

- The previous criteria were last updated in 2002.
- The Medicaid Quality Bureau conducted an audit of the previous criteria in 2013. The audit found that the HNF criteria were not well defined.
- The audit also revealed a lack of medical documentation or incomplete documentation received from the NFs to make consistent and objective medical eligibility determinations.
- After researching best practices in other states, the Quality Bureau lead a workgroup consisting of registered nurses, physicians with nursing home and geriatric backgrounds, and a former nursing home administrator.
- The new criteria developed in this workgroup clarify and refine HNF medical criteria and standardize the medical documentation needed to make a NF LOC determination.
- The criteria now emphasize the need for documentation of physician's orders, interdisciplinary progress notes and skilled services both ordered and received by the NF resident.
- The LNF criteria have **not** changed from a minimum of two activities of daily living (ADLs).
- The HNF criteria have been clarified to include:
  - a) Medication category was further defined to emphasize those needing daily monitoring for high risk medication during the initiation, change in dose, or due to adverse reactions. A NF resident on these medications who has been on a stable dose and is in stable condition may no longer meet this requirement.
  - b) Rehabilitative therapy has changed so that therapies in excess of 300 minutes per week will now be considered as meeting the two HNF requirements. (Previously it met only one requirement). There was also an addition of therapies in excess of 150 minutes per week that now count as one HNF requirement.
  - c) A new behavior/orientation category has been added for residents who demonstrate behavior that threatens safety and requires daily direct clinical skilled interventions. This will now count as one HNF requirement.

**Revision to the NF LOC Criteria in November 1, 2014**

- After receiving feedback from the NFs, the criteria were revised so that HNF can be met by meeting two HNF requirements in any HNF category. Previously the two HNF criteria had to be in two separate categories.