Reviewer's report

Title: Approaches to Quality Improvement in Nursing Homes: Lessons Learned from the Six-State Pilot of CMS' Nursing Home Quality Initiative

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Reviewer: Marilyn Rantz

Level of interest: A paper of considerable general medical or scientific interest

Advice on publication: Accept after discretionary revisions

This is an important account of the 6 state pilot study funded by CMS that is the foundation for the new federal initiative nationwide to improve quality of care in nursing homes. Lessons learned are relevant to all states now participating in the initiative and others interested in evaluation of quality improvement. It is a well written, clear, concise, and relevant paper. One compulsory revision I would require is to delete "quality assurance" argument on paragraph 3 of section "Convert regulatory culture to quality improvement culture." Suggest replacing "QA" with "compliance with regulation" to be consistent with earlier arguments made in this section. QA is not defined or set up to argue against QI to the reader.

Competing interests:

None declared.