



For Immediate Release

AAPACN Applauds New HHS Crisis Standards of Care Framework for PALTC Facilities

Denver, CO, Sept. 28, 2020 – The American Association of Post-Acute Care Nursing (AAPACN) joins HHS and other industry stakeholders in announcing today’s release of [“COVID-19: Considerations, Strategies, and Resources for Crisis Standards of Care in Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Facilities \(PALTC\).”](#)

The new Crisis Standards of Care document, developed by the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS,) Federal Healthcare Resilience Working Group, Long Term Care (HRWG), provides PALTC facilities with general considerations, potential strategies, and existing resources to inform changes to their operations and standards of care. AAPACN is proud to have contributed expert content and resources as well as final review and feedback in collaboration with HHS, other federal agencies, and industry stakeholders. AAPACN believes the document will help inform PALTC facility decisions, allowing for quick action to modify care delivery systems and maintain resident safety as they reach contingency and crisis standards during the COVID-19 pandemic.

“PALTC providers need crisis standards of care to meet the unique challenges of the pandemic,” states Amy Stewart, MSN, RN, DNS-MT, QCP-MT, RAC-MT, AAPACN vice president of education and certification strategy. “These challenges include limited resources such as staffing, personal protective equipment (PPE) and supplies, and readily available testing. So for PALTC facilities in a crisis, when the demand for these resources has exceeded what you have or been depleted, you need to make changes in your day-to-day practice to continue to operate utilizing your resources to the very best of your ability—and this new crisis standards of care this group put together will help PALTC facilities do just that.”

When asked why these crisis standards of care are important, AAPACN Curriculum Development Specialist, Alexis Roam, MSN, RN-BC, DNS-CT, QCP, explains, “These standards provide PALTC facilities with strategies they should consider to help guide decision making when their operations must change, which thus changes the standards of care. In an emergency situation, the status quo standards of care may not be achievable. So, in those instances, it’s important to have guidance that covers most impacts.”

Access the “COVID-19: Considerations, Strategies, and Resources for Crisis Standards of Care in Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Facilities” by visiting:

<https://files.asprtracie.hhs.gov/documents/covid-19-considerations-strategies-and-resources-for-crisis-standards-of-care-in-paltc-facilities.pdf>.

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[About AAPACN](#)

The American Association of Post-Acute Nursing (AAPACN) represents more than 17,000 post-acute care nurses and professionals through its subsidiary associations, the American Association of Nurse Assessment Coordination ([AANAC](#)) and the American Association of Directors of Nursing Services ([AADNS](#)). Dedicated to supporting LTPAC nurses and healthcare professionals in providing quality care, AAPACN offers members best in-class education, certification, resources, and strong collaborative communities.

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