

Executive Summary

16.4%

Overall, facilities with an AAPACN certified individual possessed an Overall CMS Star Rating 16.4% higher than facilities without a certified individual.

- CMS Star Ratings and Quality Measures were consistently better in facilities employing one or more AAPACN certified individuals.
- Facilities employing AAPACN certified individuals had higher census than facilities without certified individuals.
- There were fewer occurrences and a lower average amount of civil monetary penalties for facilities employing AAPACN certified individuals.
- Facilities employing AAPACN certified individuals had a lower percentage of denied claims.

"Facilities should invest in nursing certifications because nowadays knowledge is not just power – knowledge is actually survival."

- Nelia Adaci RNC, BSN
COO, The Charts Group

53%

The percentage of facilities with one or more AAPACN certified employee increased 53% between 2022 and 2023.

- Facilities employing AAPACN certified individuals comprised a 20% market share in 2023, up from 13% in 2022.
- 47.2% of facilities employing AAPACN certified individuals were rated as a 4- or 5-star facility, with the largest concentration of facilities employing an AAPACN certified individual in the 5-star category (27.3%).
- CMS Star Ratings in every category were significantly higher for facilities employing an AAPACN certified individual as compared to facilities without a certified individual.

Methodology

Dobson | DaVanzo utilized a three-pronged methodology to detail the financial, CMS Star Rating, Quality Measure, and Census benefits associated with facilities who employ AAPACN certified individuals.

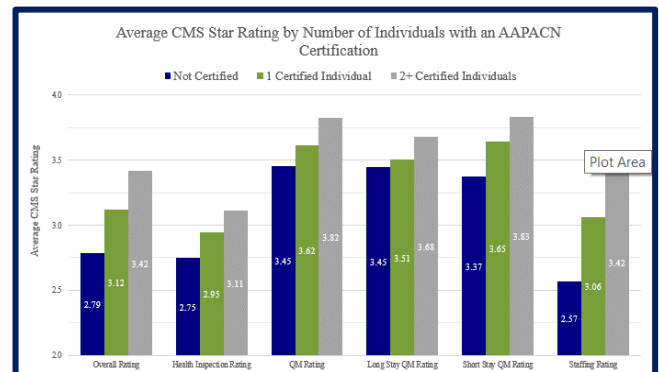
A literature review focused on the value of skilled nursing certifications and their contribution to patient outcomes, job satisfaction, and organization reputation.

Quantitative analysis using AAPACN certification data, SNF claims data, 2022 SNF cost reports, and publicly available CMS provider data.

Qualitative analysis comprising thematic coding from five 30-minute semi-structured interviews with key informants (people with longstanding experience working in or with post-acute care facilities).

2023 AAPACN Certification Impact on Quality Outcomes

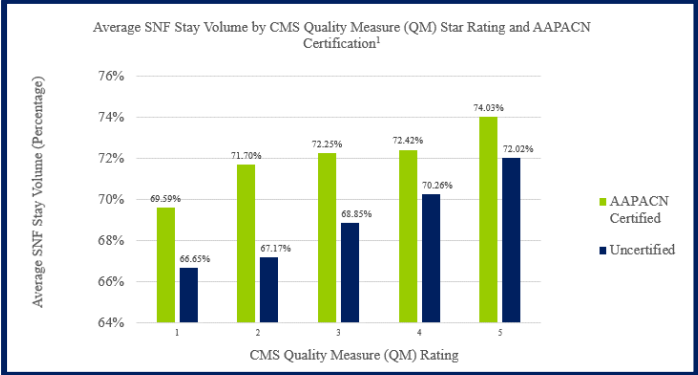
- **12 of the 18 Quality Measure Scores were higher for facilities employing AAPACN certified individuals.** Of these 12 Quality Measure Scores, 9 were significantly better than facilities without a certified individual as demonstrated by a percent difference of $\pm 2\%$.
- **A facility's CMS Star Rating improved as it employed more AAPACN certified individuals.** Facilities with 2 or more certified individuals had an average Overall CMS Star Rating of 3.42. Those employing only one certified individual had an Overall CMS Star Rating of 3.12, while facilities without a certified individual had an average of 2.79.
- **Certification tenure also played a role in improving to or maintaining a CMS 4- or 5-star rating.** 74% of facilities who had an individual possessing an AAPACN certification for 2 or more years improved to or maintained a CMS Overall 4- or 5-star rating.



Findings at a Glance

2023 AAPACN Certification Impact on Census

- **Census can be used as a proxy to demonstrate preferred provider relationships** with hospitals as well as being used to document a facility’s reputation within the community.
- **Across all CMS Star Rating types**, facilities employing AAPACN certified individuals had higher census than facilities without a certified individual.
- **An individual with an AAPACN certification is equivalent to 2 CMS stars.** This means that facilities employing AAPACN certified individuals had similar census values to a facility without a certified individual scoring two CMS stars higher.
- **The Quality Measure (QM) Star Rating**, as pictured to the right, demonstrated the most significant correlation between facility capacity and CMS Star Rating. This would suggest that QM scores are the CMS Star Ratings scores valued most by providers and individuals seeking care.



2023 AAPACN Certification Impact on Civil Monetary Penalties and Denied Claims

	AAPACN Certified	Uncertified
% of Total Facilities w/ at least one Penalty	25.83%	34.13%
Fines per Facility	\$7,884.91	\$10,728.11
Fines per Bed	\$60.49	\$102.85
Fines per Bed Day	\$0.17	\$0.29
Fines per IP Day	\$0.25	\$0.41
Fines per Patient	\$28.54	\$43.57
Maximum Fine	\$951,080.00	\$2,103,838.00
Minimum Fine	\$650.00	\$600.00
Median Fine	\$4,258.00	\$4,257.00

	AAPACN Certified	Uncertified
Total Denied Claims	11.38%	11.70%

- **Facilities employing an AAPACN certified individual had significantly fewer civil monetary penalties** assessed against the facility. 25.8% of facilities employing an AAPACN certified individual had a civil monetary penalty in 2022 as compared to 34.1% of facilities without an AAPACN certified individual.
- **Civil monetary penalties at facilities employing an AAPACN certified individual were significantly lower than at facilities without a certified individual.** The average civil monetary penalty at a facility employing an AAPACN certified individual was \$7,884.91 as compared to \$10,728.11 at a facility without a certified individual.
- **Denied claims at facilities employing AAPACN certified individuals was also significantly lower (11.38%)** than at facilities without a certified individual. This is likely due to the emphasis placed on education and correct coding that comes with an AAPACN certification

Conclusion/Discussion

- **Facilities with an AAPACN certified individual demonstrated higher quality of care** as evidenced by their elevated CMS Star Rating and Quality Measure scores.
- **The quality of care at facilities employing AAPACN certified individuals** translates into facilities who operate at greater capacity, which is demonstrative of the preferred provider relationships and positive reputation of facilities employing AAPACN certified individuals.
- **Facilities employing AAPACN certified individuals are penalized less frequently and have fewer denied claims** as compared to facilities without a certified individual. The education provided with an AAPACN certification seems to minimize errors leading to penalties and denied claims.