



## MARYLAND HEALTH CARE COMMISSION

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **MHCC Releases New *Maryland Nursing Home Guide* Web-based resource contains information on more than 200 facilities**

BALTIMORE, MD (April 3, 2007) – An updated and redesigned resource to help Marylanders select a nursing home is now available on the Web. The *Maryland Nursing Home Guide* includes information on more than 200 comprehensive care nursing facilities and 34 continuing care retirement communities. Among the types of information available are quality of care assessments and results of recent inspection visits. The guide, developed by the Maryland Health Care Commission, is located by clicking on ‘Consumers’ on the commission’s Web site at [www.mhcc.maryland.gov](http://www.mhcc.maryland.gov).

#### ▪ ***Guide Purpose***

According to Dr. Rex Cowdry, executive director of the Maryland Health Care Commission, “Public reporting of health care quality serves two purposes: it gives patients and families information to help guide health care decisions, and it gives providers additional incentive to improve the care they provide.”

Bruce Kozlowski, director of the commission’s Center for Long-Term and Community-Based Services, says, “The Commission used focus groups to critique the guide and offer suggestions to increase its utility and ease of use. This is part of a program-wide effort to increase transparency in the areas of cost and quality.” The commission is strongly committed to providing critical information to Marylanders as they search for a nursing home and is already working on additional enhancements.

#### ▪ ***New User-Friendly Design Features***

The 2007 *Maryland Nursing Home Guide* offers easier navigation, a greater ability to compare nursing homes on selected characteristics and quality measures, and links to other long-term care resources. Users can also enlarge the font size for easier reading.

#### ▪ ***One-Stop Information on a Wide Range of Topics***

Consumers can view information on facility and resident characteristics, quality measures, and the results of recent inspection visits. The guide also features general information on patient rights, how to pay for nursing home care, how to choose a nursing home, and the results of a Family Nursing Home Satisfaction Survey Pilot report. Consumers may access information about specific nursing homes by typing in the facility’s name or by searching a geographic area, such as by county or ZIP code. An advanced search capability also allows them to conduct research on certain facility characteristics and services.

(more)

- ***Utilization***

The *Maryland Nursing Home Guide* Web site receives over 14,000 visits annually. The commission continually updates information in the guide. The current guide includes data through September, 2006.

Marylanders without Internet access may call 410.764.3575 to obtain printed information. For further information about the *Maryland Nursing Home Guide*, please contact Mr. Kozlowski at 410-764-3482.

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