



Conscious Care Systems *Engineering Eldercare*

CCS Certification and the Medicare Five-Star Quality Rating System

Conscious Care Systems (CCS) is a company dedicated to providing comprehensive and cost saving programs and services designed to ensure optimal *wellness* and lifestyle for long-term care clients, support and *empowerment* for caregivers, and sustainable *profitability* for providers.

In December, 2008, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (*CMS*) launched a new *Five-Star Quality Rating* system (www.medicare.gov- *Compare Nursing Homes in Your Area*) designed to assess the performance of long-term care (LTC) communities which has become an influential quality measurement for industry and government representatives, as well as for potential clients and their families. Although these ratings systems are considered by many in the long-term services and supports (LTSS) industry to be flawed; they are relied upon by many regulators, advocates and consumers as a preliminary, and for some, a primary resource for evaluating *Quality of Care* and *Quality of Life*.

Conscious Care Systems recognizes and understands the enormous *responsibility and pressure* that LTC *administrators, owners and executives* must shoulder in executing their duties, including providing high quality *care delivery* and *supporting caregivers* - while remaining *financially viable*. CCS's commonsense-oriented, affordable, and revenue-generating programs provide the only system available to satisfy *state and federal mandates* for improved quality of life and care, while creating *savings* and improved *bottom lines* in the process.

Through its *codified* and easily *replicable systems*, CCS provides consulting and implementation services that will improve a community's standing in the next survey cycle, especially related to the all important *Five-Star Quality Measures (QM)*. CCS programs can also positively impact federal *Minimum Data Set (MDS)* scores in many sections and will improve Five-Star Quality Rating results in all three assessment areas, including physical and clinical measurements. CCS will also provide *Public Relations* services to clients to ensure that community *upgrades are publicized* and promoted.

CCS has developed its *Wellness and Lifestyle protocols* in such a way that its outcomes equate, and are easily converted to, enhanced *MDS* scores. These client specific effects will generate MDS "*significant change*" reporting that will conclusively document improved mental or physical status, as opposed to the usual, and predictable, change *triggered* by the decline of individuals in LTC.

CCS expects its programs and services to be *embraced by CMS* and will actively promote an endorsement from the agency. The company intends to further pilot and *document the outcomes* of its Phase I programs in several communities beginning in the coming year. These sites will receive deeply discounted consulting and implementation services (in exchange for certain documentation privileges) that will culminate in CCS Certification, i.e. *CCS Certified*. This certification will be supported by robust *Quality Assurance and Membership Maintenance Services (QAMM)* that will not only ensure sustained integrity and provide on-going training and new programming going forward, but also foster enhanced and continued *profitability* for its LTC client *providers*.

Modules have been developed in three-month increments and two Phase I modules are currently available that will result in *CCS Certification*. An additional *software* driven module will soon be available, and implementation will result in a certification upgrade, i.e. *CCS Silver Certified*.