



For Immediate Release:

Facilities with AAPACN-Certified Staff See Higher Five-Star Ratings

Denver, Colo. Dec. 15, 2021 – Skilled nursing facilities (SNFs) employing at least one staff member with an AAPACN certification see higher five-star ratings from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) than those without certification. The findings, released today in a new report by ABILITY Network, an Inovalon company, reveal higher ratings in the following categories:

- 16% higher overall five-star rating
- 9% higher health inspection rating
- 8% higher quality measure rating
- 5% higher long-stay quality measure rating
- 9% higher short-stay quality measure rating
- 19% higher staffing rating

In partnership with AAPACN, analysts at ABILITY compared CMS Five-Star site-of-care data published in July 2021 with AAPACN certification data for facilities employing at least one staff member holding a Resident Assessment Coordinator-Certified ([RAC-CT™](#)), Director of Nurse Services-Certified ([DNS-CT](#)), or QAPI Certified Professional ([QCP](#)) certification.

“We can determine a positive correlation, as AAPACN-certified SNFs had a higher overall star rating than the uncertified group,” said Harry Vanderburg, ABILITY Manager of Marketing Analytics.

The results aren’t surprising to Tracey Moorhead, AAPACN CEO and President. “Our members tell us that AAPACN certification programs give them the knowledge and confidence they need to manage the delivery of care and ensure accurate assessment and reimbursement,” she explained. “We wanted to be able to quantify this value at the facility and corporate level. This research demonstrates that providing nursing staff with access to AAPACN certification programs may drive improvements in quality outcomes.”

The research also shows that SNFs pairing AAPACN certification with ABILITY [CAREWATCH®](#) and ABILITY [INFECTIONWATCH®](#) had an 18% higher overall five-star rating than those without AAPACN certification or ABILITY’s resources.

ABILITY will host a free webinar on Dec. 16, 2021, at noon ET to present the full results of the research. Speakers will include Harry Vanderburg, ABILITY Manager of Marketing Analytics; Laurie Laxton, RN, BSN, CMAS, CCFA, RAC-CT, IP-BC, QCP, ABILITY Clinical Education Program Lead; and Maureen McCarthy, RN, BS, DNS-MT, QCP-MT, RAC-MT, President and CEO, Celtic Consulting, LLC, and MDSRescue.

[Download full report](#)

[Register for the webinar](#)

About AAPACN

The [American Association of Post-Acute Care Nursing](#) (AAPACN) represents more than 15,000 post-acute care nurses and professionals working in more than 5,175 facilities. Dedicated to supporting PAC nurses and healthcare professionals in providing quality care, AAPACN offers members best in-class education, certification, resources, and strong collaborative communities.

About ABILITY Network

[ABILITY® Network](#), an [Inovalon](#) Company, is a leading cloud-based, SaaS information technology company helping providers and payers simplify the administrative and clinical complexities of healthcare through innovative applications and data analytics. The combination of myABILITY and the Inovalon ONE™ Platform creates a vertically integrated cloud-based platform empowering the achievement of real-time value-based care from payers, manufacturers, and diagnostics all the way to the patient's point of care.

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