

Statement by Dr. Antonio Sanchez Acting Director VA Caribbean Healthcare System
On June 12, 2018 VA released to the public CLC Compare data for facility Community Living Centers (CLC)

I am pleased to announce that the VA Caribbean Healthcare System (VACHS) Community Living Center (CLC) has been rated among the top in the nation by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) with a 5 Star Overall Rating.

The VACHS is one of 13 VA CLC rated 5 Stars in the categories of Overall, Survey and Staffing from 134 VA CLC. We have an opportunity for improvement within the Quality rating where we obtained a 2 Star.

The quality measure rating has information on different physical and clinical measures for nursing home/CLC residents. This information is collected by the nursing home/CLCs for all residents using a form called the Minimum Data Set (MDS). The information collected includes the residents' health, physical functioning, mental status, and general well-being.

We are committed to improve our Quality rating and in doing so, we have implemented a number of educational programs for staff and support for continuous improvement initiatives such as improving Activity of Daily Living (ADL) by increasing the staff for Recreational and Occupational Therapy, focus improving Wound Care, decreasing Urinary Tract Infections and fall prevention among others. We trust that these actions will result in the continued improvement in the overall quality of care and quality of life for the Veteran residents.

The quality measures used by CMS have been displayed for private sector nursing homes participating in the contract nursing home program since June 2017 on the VA's public facing website (www.accesstocare.gov). The contracted nursing homes overall 5-Star rating displayed as calculated by CMS.

"Now that VA has made a commitment to gathering accurate quality and comparative data on its nursing homes, we are pleased to begin adding that important information to our transparency portfolio for the benefit of Veterans in making their health care choices. Further, we will release this data annually," said Acting VA Secretary Peter O'Rourke."

VA Community Living Centers (CLC) have an overall 5-Star rating calculated to allow as close of a comparison to community nursing homes as possible. These overall 5-Star ratings for VA CLCs is posted on www.accesstocare.gov along with the community nursing homes.

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