

Contact

Mountain-Pacific Quality Health
Sharon Scudder, Alaska Director
907-561-3202
sscudder@mpqhf.org

**September 25, 2018****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****Alaska Long-term Care Facilities Receive Quality Health Care Awards**

Girdwood, Alaska, (Sept. 25, 2018) —Mountain-Pacific Quality Health, the Medicare Quality Innovation Network-Quality Improvement Organization for Alaska, is proud to announce the winners of the 2018 Nursing Home Quality Awards. Mountain-Pacific awards three different levels of recognition, and nine of Alaska’s long-term care facilities met the criteria to receive these awards.

Awards will be presented on September 27, 2018 in Girdwood at Alyeska Resort during the Alaska State Hospital and Nursing Home Association’s Annual Conference. All award recipients showed their dedication to quality care by meeting the high-quality standards required to receive any award level.

Recognition of Quality Excellence Award

- Heritage Place, Soldotna
- Providence Valdez Medical Center & Long Term Care, Valdez
- Denali Center, Fairbanks

Recognition of Quality Achievement Award

- Prestige Care and Rehabilitation Center, Anchorage
- Wrangell Medical Center Long Term Care, Wrangell
- Quyanna Care Center, Nome
- Sitka Community Hospital & Long Term Care, Sitka
- South Peninsula Hospital & Long Term Care, Homer

Most Improved Award

- Wrangell Medical Center Long Term Care, Wrangell

“Every one of these facilities demonstrated a true dedication and commitment to deliver high-quality care to their residents and families,” said Sharon Scudder, Mountain-Pacific’s Alaska director. “Mountain-Pacific is honored to partner with Alaska’s long-term care facilities to promote quality, compassionate care.”

These nine facilities participate in the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) National Nursing Home Quality Care Collaborative (NNHQCC) through Mountain-Pacific Quality Health. The NNHQCC’s goals are to instill quality and performance improvement practices, eliminate healthcare-acquired conditions and improve resident satisfaction. As a measure to reflect achievement of these goals, CMS created a “composite score” system. The composite score is a way to assess quality of care in long-term care facilities and is based on 13 publicly reported quality measures—the lower the score, the better.

The awards are based on each facility’s composite score, their licensure with Alaska’s state survey agency and their certification with CMS. Winners of the Recognition of Quality Excellence Award had to attain a composite score of 7.0 percent or less least seven times during the 2017 calendar year. Facilities who

received the Recognition of Quality Achievement Award earned a 7.0 percent or less at least once during 2017. Wrangell Medical Center Long Term Care received the Most Improved Award for achieving the greatest reduction in rate in its overall composite score for 2017.

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About Mountain-Pacific— Mountain-Pacific is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation and holds federal and state contracts that allow them to oversee the quality of care for Medicare and Medicaid members. Mountain-Pacific works within its region (Montana, Wyoming, Alaska, Hawaii and the U.S. Pacific Territories of Guam and American Samoa and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands) to help improve the delivery of health care and the systems that provide it. Mountain-Pacific’s goal is to increase access to high-quality health care that is affordable, safe and of value to the patients they serve. www.mpqhf.org

Developed by Mountain-Pacific Quality Health, the Medicare Quality Innovation Network-Quality Improvement Organization (QIN-QIO) for Montana, Wyoming, Alaska, Hawaii and the U.S. Pacific Territories of Guam and American Samoa and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, under contract with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Contents presented do not necessarily reflect CMS policy. 11SOW-MPQHF-AK-C2-18-64