

Quality of Life Survey

Overview

Money Follows the Person is part of the New Freedom Initiative which is a nationwide effort to remove barriers to community living for people of all ages with disabilities and long-term illnesses. It represents an important step in working to ensure that all Americans have the opportunity to learn and develop skills, engage in productive work, choose where to live and participate in community life.

As a part of evaluating the success of this initiative, CMS has provided funding to states to collect information on beneficiaries' quality of life before and after the transition. This is of particular importance given that the purpose of the MFP initiative is to improve quality of life of beneficiaries. The key measure of this is the Quality of Life Survey. The survey collects information about the following: participant's freedom of choice and control over their lives; satisfaction with housing, care, and life in general; access to care and unmet needs; feelings about being treated with adequate respect and dignity; ability to engage in and enjoy community activities; and health status.

Policymakers believe understanding how well MFP achieves its goal to help states transition long-term institutionalized Medicaid beneficiaries to community settings and restructure their long-term care systems is critical to determining future programs and policies. The study is being conducted to help CMS evaluate how well the MFP initiative is meeting the needs of beneficiaries and what changes may need to be made. The results of this demonstration will be summarized in a report to Congress. The results will be used to improve the program and provide the best possible services to beneficiaries in the community.