

Recurring Deficiencies Explained

In creating our Annual Reports and for other statistical references Voices for Quality Care (Voices) uses the Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) data that has been downloaded from the initial page of the Nursing Home Compare website ([Download the Nursing Home Compare database](#)). These data downloads contain all collected nursing home information for three survey cycles, the current one and the two before it. Each survey Cycle contains information for one full cycle (12-15 months).

In creating our Voices 2014 Annual Report, we discovered that there were a many Maryland and Washington D.C. nursing homes that were receiving citations of deficiency for the *same* F-tag in *each* of the three consecutive Survey Cycles contained in the latest download. It should be noted here that each time a nursing home is cited for a deficiency, that home must create and have approved a Plan of Correction intended to fix the problem. The same would be true for the first citation, the second citation, and so on. Clearly these Plans of Correction in the case of the recurring deficiencies are not having the desired effect.

This is not simply 3 or more citations of the same deficiency during the 3 cycle period. and there are quite a number of additional US nursing homes that have 3 of the same F-tags cited in the various survey cycles that do *not* appear on our lists. It is the need to have the *same* citation appearing in *each* of the survey cycles that complicates this matter and that makes this information unique. While this information is included in the CMS data it is not readily available through the normal CMS filters. So far as I know, the Coalition for Quality Care (CQC) and Voices are the only organizations with nursing home data sorted in this fashion.

Example A: This is a nursing home that would not have been included in the recurring deficiencies list. The key is in the Cycle column. While it does have 3 of the same deficiencies listed, 2 of them occurred in the 3rd cycle and one occurred in the 2nd cycle. There were none in the current 1st cycle.

survey date output	Survey Type	def pref	tag	tag description	scope	cycle
2/20/15	Health	F	514	Keep accurate, complete and organized clinical records on each resident that meet professional standards.	E	2
2/10/14	Health	F	514	Keep accurate, complete and organized clinical records on each resident that meet professional standards.	D	3
3/7/14	Health	F	514	Keep accurate, complete and organized clinical records on each resident that meet professional standards.	E	3

Example B: This is a nursing home that **would** have been included in the recurring deficiencies list. The key is in the Cycle column. While it was cited for the same F-tag (F-514) in each of the three Cycles. (Cycle 1, 2, and 3)

survey date output	Survey Type	def pref	tag	tag description	scope	cycle
10/22/15	Health	F	514	Keep accurate, complete and organized clinical records on each resident that meet professional standards.	D	1
2/20/15	Health	F	514	Keep accurate, complete and organized clinical records on each resident that meet professional standards.	E	2
2/10/14	Health	F	514	Keep accurate, complete and organized clinical records on each resident that meet professional standards.	D	3

Sorting out all homes with 3 or more citations of deficiency is an easy sort on Excel. It is the final sort that eliminates any nursing home that does **not** have a citation for the **same** deficiency in **each** of the three cycles that requires the additional software. That software, which runs in an Excel platform, was paid for with CQC funds and is owned by CQC.

The new regulations that went into effect on November 28 (and will be revised again in 2017 and 2018) have disrupted this cycle making November 2016 the last month that this information will be valid for approximately the next 5 years. That is assuming that the regulations remain intact and that there are no further revisions beyond 2018.