

# Effective Management of Long-Term Care Facilities

S E C O N D   E D I T I O N

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# Foreword

I welcome the second edition of *Effective Management of Long-Term Care Facilities* because it makes a timely contribution in the critical area of long-term care administration. It takes into account the altered health care environment and updates the tools we need to prepare long-term care managers to discharge their awesome responsibility of ensuring quality of life for 1.1 million of our elders in over 16,000 nursing homes. As leaders, long-term care administrators guide and mentor 650,000 CNAs, 300,000 RNs and LPNs, and 400,000 other staff in the art of caring for seniors. In long-term care, more than in most other settings, quality blossoms or withers by the commitment of its managers; managers are the creators and nurturers of the culture of quality in a nursing facility. This culture of quality is the core of person-centered care emphasized in this book. The philosophy of person-centered care must permeate our long-term care facilities.

You may read this book as a student of health care administration while you prepare for the professional licensure examination, when you need a ready reference, or when you consider a career in long-term care administration. You will not be disappointed. Dr. Singh provides a compendium of information needed for successful administration in long-term care.

This book clearly defines an administrator's scope of responsibility in these four

dimensions of care: physical, social, mental, and spiritual. Although regulations require that you create a "home-like" environment in the nursing home, elders and their families yearn for it to be a "home." By using the physical design judiciously, empowering the staff, and engaging the community as partners in care, the leader-administrator creates an environment that both elders and caregivers want.

Dr. Singh frames many of these issues in a manner that familiarizes the reader with important theories and models, such as theories of aging and quality improvement models. He demonstrates to the reader the importance of functioning in an "open system" that is integrally linked to the external environment. The text clearly points out that using models, systems, and processes is essential for excellent outcomes in all areas of quality of life and quality of care.

Leaders must understand the realities of today while envisioning the possibilities of tomorrow. While detailing what you must know to deal with today's standards, the author also points to models that contain the seeds of future realities.

The challenges of managing long-term care are numerous. Our society demands near perfection in care, but does not support an adequate reimbursement system. Although regulation is highly prescriptive, it mandates maximum autonomy and choice. Students and candidates in health care professions are

frequently discouraged from working in long-term care by those oblivious to its many rewards. Being a leader in long-term care is one of the most rewarding and challenging positions in health care.

The American College of Health Care Administrators, the professional association for administrators in long-term care, conducted a survey of administrators in the fall of 2002. Their written comments were voluminous. This quote from one of those surveyed speaks to the reason that people working in the field find such rewards: *This is more than a job. I am in a position to affect change, to improve lives, to touch hearts. As administrators we should revel in the chance*

*to make major differences in lives, patients, families, and staff. It is our privilege and our responsibility. Done correctly, the rewards are immeasurable.*

This edition will serve you as a source book that gives an overall feel for the evolving world of long-term care, as well as a ready reference for related issues you wish to pursue.

Mary Tellis-Nayak, RN, MSN, MPH  
Vice President—Quality Initiatives,  
My InnerView, Inc.  
Past President/CEO, American College of  
Health Care Administrators

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# Preface

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## To My Readers

Successful reception of the first edition, feedback from several users, and my own recognition of needed improvements as I used the book to teach my students prompted the major revisions, additions, and streamlining presented in this second edition. Throughout this process, the driving objective has been to furnish much-needed knowledge and skills to prepare the next generation of long-term care administrators and also, to put into the hands of practicing administrators, corporate officers, and governing board members an in-depth reference source. In a nutshell, my aim has been to make a good book even better.

This book differentiates itself from others on the market by giving you the most comprehensive, yet concise, understanding of how to effectively manage a long-term care facility. In that respect, the book goes much beyond a mere discussion of the long-term care continuum and policy issues. It explores laws, regulations, and financing; enlightens you on what is necessary for creating a person-centered environment in which six distinct types of services must be delivered; and furnishes skills necessary to manage it all. Further value is added by furnishing a brand-new section that contains 12 cases, each with assignment questions to apply the concepts and skills learned and to think be-

yond what any textbook can furnish. That's what you will be called upon to do in real life. This book can help you respond to that calling with a degree of self-confidence.

In the book's title, I have used the term "long-term care facilities" rather than "skilled nursing facilities" or "nursing homes" because, for the most part, the same or very similar skills are employed to effectively manage any other type of operation in the institutional long-term care continuum. If a person can learn how to manage a skilled nursing facility, he or she can easily make the transition into managing other, less complex and less challenging, environments such as assisted-living facilities or residential care facilities. Actually, both clinical and regulatory demands in these facilities will continue to grow. On the other hand, tomorrow's administrators must realize that effectively managed facilities will go beyond mere compliance with what regulations require.

## What You Will Learn from This Book

This edition progresses quite smoothly from understanding long-term care, to detailing the external and internal environments, to organizing and delivering services, to developing leadership and management skills, and finally, to applying knowledge and skills to cases. Hence, the book has five sections.

## Part I: Introduction to Long-Term Care

It is critical for any administrator in the field to first understand what long-term care is. I have finally developed the most complete definition and explanation by incorporating 10 essential dimensions that help explain what long-term care is, why it is needed, who needs it, and how it should be delivered. These dimensions are also the essential characteristics that will be found in an ideal delivery system. As a subset within a larger health care delivery environment, long-term care encompasses a variety of service options and can be referred to as a system in its own right, but it must also interface with the broader health care environment to meet the total care needs of the clients it serves. Hence, the first chapter builds this necessary foundation.

In Chapter 2, you will go back in history to the beginnings of long-term care in the United States. After a discussion of what policy is, what purpose it serves, and how policy is made, it is easy to understand that policy has been the driving force behind the evolution of long-term care services as they exist today. The future will be shaped by both government policy and private innovation, but policy will continue to play the dominant role.

Chapter 3 is based on the premise that efficient delivery of services to a nation's population necessitates a long-term care industry. First, the industry requires numerous types of providers—both community-based and institutional—because people's needs differ quite substantially. Nursing homes and other institutions operate within this larger context—and will continue to be influenced by it. Second, the industry cannot function without insurers; professionals who have the desired qualifications; and the ancillary sector that includes case management agencies, long-term care pharmacies, and technology.

## Part II: External and Internal Environments

An understanding of open systems, sensitivity to stakeholders' needs, and creation of value-based exchange partnerships often makes the difference between success and failure. But, has the governing board espoused their importance? Read Chapter 4 to find out why effective governance means supporting the open-system philosophy and to find out how it can be implemented.

Unrelenting litigation against long-term care providers is here to stay. But, does the long-term care administrator have the basic knowledge about malpractice, misconduct, contracts, personal versus corporate liability, patient rights, and privacy-related mandates imposed by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA)? You will find these and other issues discussed in Chapter 5.

Regulatory oversight will also keep its unyielding pace. The Requirements of Participation are being enforced through the new Quality Indicator Survey. The well-prepared nursing home administrator must understand not only the survey and enforcement procedures, but also comply with the *Life Safety Code*<sup>®1</sup>, the Americans with Disabilities Act, and the Occupational Safety and Health Act. Chapter 6 focuses on how to achieve regulatory compliance.

No health care administrator can survive without an understanding of financing and reimbursement. Chapter 7 attempts to simplify the complexities of both public and private sources of financing for long-term care services.

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<sup>1</sup>*Life Safety Code*<sup>®</sup> and 101<sup>®</sup> are registered trademarks of the National Fire Protection Association, Quincy, Ma.

The internal structures, living environments, and ways of delivering care in the vast majority of nursing facilities date back more than 25 years. Now, there is a growing movement toward person-centered care, enriched environments, and staff empowerment. Loosely referred to as culture change, Chapter 8 will help you understand what this is all about.

### **Part III: Organization and Delivery of Services**

Long-term care institutions must organize their services into six departments or functions. These functions will be needed regardless of the adoption of culture change. Quality of care and quality of life must be the common themes that govern the delivery of these services.

First and foremost, a long-term care facility must enable the residents to cope and adapt to a major change in their lives when they move into a facility. It requires an understanding of aging and how to dispel the myths associated with aging. In addition, issues of cultural diversity, resident and family empowerment, planning for admission and discharge, and family support when death and terminal illness occur are all covered in Chapter 9.

Most administrators do not have background or training in clinical care. Yet, the primary reason that patients utilize a long-term care facility is to have their medical, nursing, and rehabilitation needs addressed. Along with other chronic and comorbid conditions, residents commonly suffer from depression, delirium, and dementia. An understanding of these and other areas of special attention are discussed in Chapter 10.

In Chapter 11, you will discover that activity programming is not simply a matter of

putting together a recreational agenda to comply with regulatory requirements. Meaningful activities call for a great deal of skill and resourcefulness.

Chapter 12 explains that dietary services must be designed to meet individual nutritional needs, sensory gratification, and social interaction. Menu planning, ordering and receiving, food production, cost control, emergency plans, and close attention to sanitation and food temperatures all play an important role in achieving those objectives.

Maintenance and repairs, housekeeping, laundry, linen supplies and cost control, building security, fire and disaster planning, waste disposal, and environmental safety are the main topics found in Chapter 13.

In Chapter 14, you will learn that business office functions go beyond basic reception and bookkeeping. Payroll and compensation practices, handling of the patient trust fund, and medical records are all governed by laws and regulations. Information systems are essential for effective management.

### **Part IV: Governance and Management**

Chapter 15 emphasizes that the governing board has the primary responsibility for ensuring corporate compliance. The administrator is responsible for managing the business aspects of the operation, managing work and workers and making both more productive, and discharging responsibility toward the community and society. The task requires leadership skills and an understanding of management roles and functions.

Apart from the well-defined human resource functions and labor laws, in Chapter 16 you will pick up helpful tips on meeting the special challenges of long-term care in staffing, confronting absenteeism and

turnover, and establishing self-managed work teams.

In addition to the typical themes in marketing and public relations, you will discover in Chapter 17 that perhaps the most challenging aspect of long-term care marketing is its personnel, the 5th P of the marketing mix.

Chapter 18 focuses on budgeting and financial controls and has been designed with the aim of dispelling the myth that financial management is difficult to grasp.

Chapter 19 should help you get a clear picture of not only what quality is, but also how quality can be improved.

## Part V: Case Studies

In case analysis, multiple factors generally need to be brought to bear on the issues. They require thinking beyond what may appear to be obvious from reading some section of a given chapter. Hence, a separate section instead of incorporating cases with individual chapters.

After studying the first three chapters, you should be able to address Case 1, in which an elderly immigrant couple needs long-term care services. The next three cases deal with legal and ethical issues in which patient rights must play an important role. Case 5 is about medical malpractice. Case 6 deals with both strategy and logistics that will often be necessary for implementing culture change. Evacuation of a facility (Case 7) is not common, but the administrator must be prepared to take action for various kinds of emergencies. In Case 8, you will find that leadership styles and actions can create conflicts that effective administrators must learn to prevent, but they must also address the conflict when it has already occurred. Corporate compliance is the theme in Case 9. There are many facilities today in which staff-

related problems will appear insurmountable. Case 10 challenges you to apply your ingenuity. Some administrators will face the challenge of opening new facilities. See if you are up to the challenges presented in Case 11. Culture change may be a buzzword today, but it is the wave of the future. Will you be deterred by what you encounter in Case 12?

## Tools That Will Enhance Learning

- Read the brief overview at the beginning of each of the five parts of the book.
- Go through the *What You Will Learn* summaries at the beginning of each chapter.
- Study the chapters, keeping in mind the main themes that divide each chapter.
- Use the Glossary when you encounter an unfamiliar technical term.
- Stop and review the numerous illustrations (figures, tables, exhibits, etc.) you will find throughout the book.
- Think through the *For Further Thought* assignments at the end of each chapter.
- Pick some area of interest to build on what you have learned by using the Internet resources in the *For Further Learning* sections.

Throughout the text, certain terms have been used interchangeably. Examples include: nursing home, nursing facility, facility, and long-term care facility; patient, resident, and elder; and employee, associate, staff member, and worker.

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## For Instructors

Please contact your Jones and Bartlett representative to get access to the complete In-

structor's Manual, PowerPoint presentations, a TestBank, and Excel materials. Also, if you would like to share your thoughts, I would be delighted to hear from you. See my contact information at the end of this Preface.

## **Transition Guide and New Materials**

If you used the first edition, this transition guide should help you locate materials that have been reorganized. This section also highlights what is new in this edition.

### **Chapter 1: Overview of Long-Term Care**

Pertinent materials from the previous edition's Chapters 1 and 2 are combined here. Long-term care has been explained by incorporating four additional domains in the six components that appeared in the old edition. The following have been moved to Chapter 4: open and closed systems, external environment (previously in Chapter 1), and exchange relationships (previously in Chapter 2).

### **Chapter 2: Long-Term Care Policy: Past, Present, and Future**

This is a brand-new chapter that reviews the past, present, and future of long-term care from a policy perspective. The main themes of financing, utilization, and quality from a current policy perspective are incorporated here (previously in the Introduction).

### **Chapter 3: The Long-Term Care Industry**

This chapter is brand new. First, it gives a detailed overview of the continuum of providers

(some of these, such as continuing care retirement communities, assisted-living facilities, and subacute care providers, were previously in Chapter 1). A detailed overview of providers includes home health care, homemaker and personal services, adult day care, hospice, government-assisted and private-pay housing, and custodial care providers such as adult foster care homes. The insurance sector includes managed care. A full section is devoted to professionals that include administrators in home health agencies, assisted living, and nursing homes and clinicians such as physicians, nurses, nonphysician providers, rehabilitation professionals, dietitians, paraprofessionals, and social support professionals. The specialized role of long-term care pharmacies is included. The chapter concludes with an overview of seven categories of long-term care technology according to what these technologies are designed to do.

### **Chapter 4: Responding to the External Environment**

Pertinent materials from former Chapters 1 and 2 are incorporated here. The SWOT model appropriately belongs here and has been moved from former Chapter 13.

### **Chapter 5: Legal Environment**

Much of the materials from former Chapter 3 are found here. Two mini-cases are embedded in the narrative, one old and one new. The section on patient rights, which also includes HIPAA, has been expanded. Requirements of Participation and survey and enforcement have been moved to Chapter 6. Materials on governance and the role of the nursing home administrator have been moved to Chapter 14.

## **Chapter 6: Regulation and Enforcement**

This is essentially a new chapter. It retains the regulatory parts of former Chapter 3, but it now incorporates brand-new materials on the *Life Safety Code*<sup>®</sup>, accessibility standards under the Americans with Disabilities Act, and OSHA standards and recordkeeping requirements.

## **Chapter 7: Financing and Reimbursement**

The previous edition's Chapter 4 has been expanded to include Medicare Part D, and all data have been updated. New materials include the Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE), minimum data set (MDS) 3.0 (even though it was not yet launched at the time the book manuscript was completed), and resource utilization group classifications (RUG-53).

## **Chapter 8: Internal Environment and Culture Change**

This chapter was created by combining pertinent materials from former Chapters 5 and 6 and removing some of the extraneous materials. The chapter was reorganized for a smoother flow. Beginning with the adoption of hospital layout and the sick-role model in earlier nursing homes, the chapter transitions to the application of person-centered philosophy. Modern architectural designs, culture change, and Eden Alternative and Green House models make up the latter half. The traditional clinical structure from former Chapter 5 has been retained because the vast majority of nursing facilities are still organized that way. A new section includes environ-

ments for patients with dementia. Discussion of Snoezelen has been moved to Chapter 11 on activities, and the Wellspring Model has been moved to Chapter 19.

## **Chapter 9: Social Services, Admission, and Discharge**

New sections include diversity and cultural competence, cultural accommodation, conflict resolution skills, Preadmission Screening and Resident Review (PASRR) compliance, and death and terminal illness.

## **Chapter 10: Medical Care, Nursing, and Rehabilitation**

A new section has been added on mental and cognitive disorders that include depression, delirium, and dementia. The section on controlled substances has been expanded.

## **Chapter 11: Recreation and Activities**

The section on multisensory stimulation has been expanded. A new section, *Activities for Dementia Patients*, has been added.

## **Chapter 12: Dietary Services**

The 2005 Dietary Guidelines for Americans, jointly published by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, replace the former Food Guide Pyramid.

## **Chapter 13: Plant and Environmental Services**

The former Chapter 11 needed only minor updates.



## Chapter 14: Administrative and Information Systems

Compensation and job categories under the new Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) guidelines have been revised, and minimum wage information has been updated. Because this law can be confusing, a new section clarifies areas in which FLSA does not apply. The section on information systems has been tweaked a little, but overall it is considered adequate.

## Chapter 15: Effective Governance, Leadership, and Management

Governance, board composition, board functions, and corporate compliance are new materials. Some of the material was moved from former Chapter 3. Students had some difficulty relating the discussion on bureaucracy (in former Chapter 13) to management. That section is eliminated and replaced with management—and its roles and functions.

## Chapter 16: Effective Human Resource and Staff Development

The section on turnover and retention has been updated and expanded. The section on unionization includes the Employee Free Choice Act, which did not pass but is likely to be resurrected in the future. A section on alcohol and drug abuse has been added under the Employment Laws section. Students found that the calculation of staffing levels

by determining weights and relative values was difficult to follow. The concept behind this has been retained, but the details on the calculations and accompanying exhibit have been deleted. Unfortunately, to my knowledge, there is currently no other practical model available for tying staffing levels to patient acuity. The exhibit from the old edition is included in the Excel files available to instructors.

## Marketing, Finance, and Quality

Chapters 17, 18, and 19 on marketing, financial management, and quality, respectively (former Chapters 15, 16, and 17), did not require any substantive changes, except that the Wellspring Model is now consolidated in Chapter 19. Additional information on Wellspring is contained in Case 12.

I continue to dedicate this book to all those who have decided to serve the noble profession of long-term care as caregivers or leaders in the field and to the educators who are preparing the next generation of these caregivers and leaders.

With my best wishes,

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independently developed and contributed cases for this edition, and their work is greatly appreciated.

Comments from the readers and users of the first edition prompted some of the revisions and additions incorporated in this edition. I appreciate their thoughtfulness. I am also very grateful to Mary Tellis-Nayak, former president/chief executive officer of the American College of Health Care Administrators, who provided valuable insight and assistance for the first edition, which remains the foundation for making this second edition a reality. Of course, all errors and omissions in this book remain my responsibility.

Douglas A. Singh



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## About the Author

Dr. Douglas Singh teaches graduate and undergraduate courses in health care delivery, policy, finance, and management in the School of Business and Economics and in the Department of Political Science at Indiana University–South Bend. He has authored/co-authored four books and has been published in several peer-reviewed journals.

He spent more than 15 years as a licensed long-term care administrator in four states. He also held the positions of regional man-

ager, vice-president, and consultant and supervised both skilled nursing care and independent living operations. His doctoral work at the School of Public Health, University of South Carolina, broke new ground in understanding nursing home performance on certification surveys, for which he was awarded the Long-Term Care Research award in 1995 by the Foundation of the American College of Health Care Administrators.



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# List of Abbreviations

AAC	Activity Assistant, Certified
AAHSA	American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging
AARP	Formerly known as the American Association of Retired Persons
ACHCA	American College of Health Care Administrators
ADA	Americans with Disabilities Act; American Dietetic Association
ADEA	Age Discrimination in Employment Act (1967)
ADC	Activity Director, Certified
ADL	Activities of daily living
ADN	Associate's degree in nursing
ADON	Assistant director of nursing
AFC	Adult foster care home
AFL-CIO	American Federation of Labor-Congress of Industrial Unions
AHCA	American Health Care Association
AHIMA	American Health Information Management Association
AI	Adequate intake
AIDS	Acquired immunodeficiency syndrome
AIT	Administrator-in-training
ALFA	Assisted Living Federation of America
AMDA	American Medical Directors Association
ASHA	American Speech-Language-Hearing Association
BBA	Balanced Budget Act of 1997
BSN	Bachelor of science degree in nursing
BSW	Bachelor's degree in social work
CADE	Commission on Accreditation for Dietetics Education
CAPS	Certified aging-in-place specialist
CBO	Congressional Budget Office
CCRC	Continuing care retirement community
CDC	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
CDM	Certified dietary manager
CDR	Commission on Dietetic Registration
CEO	Chief executive officer
CFO	Chief financial officer
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CMS	Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

## xxxii List of Abbreviations

CNA	Certified nursing assistant
CON	Certificate of need
COTA	Certified occupational therapy assistant
CPOE	Computerized provider order entry (system)
CQI	Continuous quality improvement
CSA	Controlled Substances Act (1970)
CSRA	Community Spouse Resource Allowance
CTRS	Certified therapeutic recreation specialist
DD	Developmentally disabled
DHHS	U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
DMA	Dietary Managers Association
DME	Durable medical equipment
DNR	Do-not-resuscitate (order)
DO	Doctor of osteopathic medicine
DON	Director of nursing
DPOA	Durable power of attorney
DRG	Diagnosis-related groups
DRI	Dietary Reference Intake
DTR	Dietetic Technician, Registered
EEOC	Equal Employment Opportunity Commission
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
FCA	False Claims Act (1863)
FDA	U.S. Food and Drug Administration
FICA	Federal Insurance Contributions Act
FIFO	First-in first-out
FLSA	Fair Labor Standards Act
FMLA	Family and Medical Leave Act (1993)
FSES	Fire Safety Evaluation System
FUTA	Federal Unemployment Tax Act
GAAP	Generally accepted accounting principles
GNP	Geriatric nurse practitioner
HCBS	Home and Community Based Services
HHA	Home health agency
HI	Hospital Insurance (Part A of Medicare)
HIPAA	Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (1996)
HIT	Health information technology
HIV	Human immunodeficiency virus
HMO	Health maintenance organization
HUD	U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
IADL	Instrumental activities of daily living
ICF	Intermediate care facility
ICF/MR	Intermediate care facility for the mentally retarded
ICP	Infection control practitioner



IOM	Institute of Medicine
IRF	Inpatient rehabilitation facility
IRS	Internal Revenue Service
IT	Information technology
JCAHO	Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations
LAN	Local area network
LPN	Licensed practical nurse
LSC	<i>Life Safety Code</i> <sup>®</sup>
LTC	Long-term care
LTCH	Long-term care hospital
LVN	Licensed vocational nurse
MA-PD	Medicare Advantage Prescription Drug Plan (under Part C of Medicare)
MBO	Management by objectives
MCCA	Medicare Catastrophic Coverage Act (1988)
MCO	Managed care organization
MD	Doctor of medicine
MDRO	Multi-drug resistant organism
MDS	Minimum data set
MIA	(Community Spouse) Monthly Income Allowance
MMA	Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act (2003)
MR/DD	Mentally retarded/developmentally disabled
MRSA	Methicillin-resistant <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>
MSBT	Multisensory behavior therapy
MSD	Musculoskeletal disorder
MSE	Multisensory environment
MSS	Multisensory stimulation
MSW	Master's degree in social work
NAB	National Association of Long Term Care Administrator Boards
NASPAC	National Association of Subacute/Post Acute Care
NBCOT	National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy
NCCAP	National Certification Council for Activity Professionals
NCTRC	National Council for Therapeutic Recreation Certification
NF	Nursing facility (referring to a federal certification category)
NFPA	National Fire Protection Association
NHA	Nursing home administrator
NLRA	National Labor Relations Act (1935)
NLRB	National Labor Relations Board
NP	Nurse practitioner
NPP	Nonphysician practitioner
OAA	Old Age Assistance
OBRA-87	Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1987
OSCAR	On-line Survey Certification and Reporting (system)
OSHA	Occupational Safety and Health Administration

## xxxiv List of Abbreviations

OT	Occupational therapist or occupational therapy
OTR	Occupational Therapist, Registered
P&L	Profit and loss statement (Income statement)
PA	Physician assistant
PACE	Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly
PASRR	Pre-admission Screening and Resident Review
PDP	Prescription Drug Plan (under Part D of Medicare)
PDSA	Plan, do, study, act
PERS	Personal emergency response systems
PHI	Protected health information
PHP	Prepaid health plan
POA	Power of attorney
POC	Plan of correction
PPD	Per-patient-day; purified protein derivative
PPS	Prospective payment system
PT	Physical therapist or physical therapy
PTA	Physical therapy assistant
QCI	Quality of care indicator
QIS	Quality Indicator Survey
QM/QI	Quality measure/quality indicator (report)
QoL	Quality of life
RAI	Resident Assessment Instrument
RC/AL	Residential care/assisted living (administrator's license)
RD	Registered dietitian
RDA	Recommended daily allowances
RHIA	Registered health information administrator
RHIT	Registered health information technician
RN	Registered nurse
RUG	Resource utilization group
SLP	Speech/language pathologist
SMI	Supplementary Medical Insurance (Part B of Medicare)
SMWT	Self-managed work team
SNF	Skilled nursing facility
SPs	Standard precautions
SSI	Supplemental Security Income
TB	Tuberculosis
TCU	Transitional care unit
TPN	Total parenteral nutrition
TQM	Total quality management
USDA	U.S. Department of Agriculture
VHA	Veterans Health Administration
VRE	Vancomycin-resistant enterococci