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If you have clients who need assistance with finding the right place for their ill family member to live and determining how to pay for it,

***we can assist them
with becoming eligible
for Medicaid.***

If you have clients who are unable to care for themselves and make their own decisions,

***we can assist their loved
ones with becoming their
guardian.***

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GAO SAYS NURSING HOME RATINGS NEED TO BE MORE CONSUMER FRIENDLY

The U.S. General Accountability Office (GAO) has researched and compiled a report regarding the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' (CMS) consumer rating system on nursing homes. The website is used by an average of 914,000 people per year. The report follows a story from the New York Times that was critical of CMS' Nursing Home Compare tool and its Five-Star Rating System, both of which are on the CMS website. Currently, CMS rates nursing homes comparing them only with other nursing homes in their own state on a one star to five star scale; whereas, the GAO recommends comparing nursing homes on a national scale. Also, CMS bases nursing home performance on health inspections, staffing, and quality measures. The report in turn recommends that CMS add information on navigating its website, use a more systematic approach to changing the website, and use consumer satisfaction data.

Source: The Philadelphia Inquirer
<http://www.philly.com/philly/health/Nursing-home-ratings-need-to-be-more-consumer-friendly-GAO-says.html>

SSA UNVEILS REPRESENTATIVE PAYEE TRAINING

The Social Security Administration (SSA) has created the Representative Payee Interdisciplinary Training series. Representative Payees are people chosen by the SSA to manage Social Security, SSDI, or SSI benefits for a recipient when that recipient is unable to manage his or her funds. Among the topics covered are the role and responsibility of serving as a Representative Payee, elder abuse, financial exploitation, ways to monitor and conduct business with banks, and how to recognize changes in decision making ability in vulnerable adults and senior citizens. The SSA has the training videos on their website for easy viewing.

Source: Social Security Administration
https://www.ssa.gov/payee/rp_training2.html