Table Discussion of the CMS Five-Star Rating System
Session M1 2014 IHI Forum

1. CMS describes the Five-Star rating system this way:

“The primary goal of this rating system is to provide residents and their families with an easy way to understand assessment of nursing home quality, making meaningful distinctions between high and low performing nursing homes.”


While you could use the Five-Star ratings for research, judgment/accountability or improvement, the CMS Five-Star rating is a measurement system primarily for judgment/accountability.

**Discussion Question:** Do you agree or disagree? Why?

2. Some people and groups argue that transparent reporting of the CMS Five-Star measures can drive better performance, reflecting improvements in nursing homes.

**Discussion Question:** What features should the Five-Star rating system have so that people will improve nursing homes rather than distort nursing homes or distort the reported numbers?