

## Interpreting Long-Term Care Survey Reports

When it's found that a nursing facility is not in compliance with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) regulations, a deficiency is cited and assigned a scope and severity (SS=\_\_\_). Deficiencies are reported by CMS using form 2567 — the statement of deficiencies and plan of correction.

Scope has three levels:

- **Isolated:** When one or a very limited number of residents are affected, and a limited number of staff are involved, and/or the situation has occurred only occasionally or in a limited number of locations.
- **Pattern:** When more than a limited number of residents are affected, and/or more than a very limited number of staff are involved, and/or the situation has occurred in several locations, and/or the resident(s) have been affected by repeated occurrences.
- **Widespread:** When the problems causing the deficiencies are pervasive in the facility and/or represent systemic failure that affected or has the potential to affect a large portion or all the facility's residents.

Severity has four levels:

- **Level 1:** Has the potential for causing no more than a minor negative impact on the resident(s).
- **Level 2:** Has the potential for no more than minimal physical, mental, and psychosocial discomfort to the resident and has the potential to compromise the resident's ability to maintain and/or reach his/her highest practicable well-being.
- **Level 3:** Results in negative outcomes that has compromised the resident's ability to maintain and/or reach his/her highest practicable well-being.
- **Level 4:** Is immediate jeopardy, a situation in which immediate corrective action is necessary because the facility's noncompliance with one or more requirements or participation has caused, or is likely to cause, serious injury, harm, or death.

(SS=___)	Isolated	Pattern	Widespread
Level 4	J	K	L
Level 3	G	<b>H</b>	<b>I</b>
Level 2	D	E	<b>F</b>
Level 1	A	B	C

Bold letters within the table denote deficiency ratings that constitute substandard quality of care if the requirement that is not met is one that falls under the following regulations:

- 42 CFR 483.13 Resident behavior and facility practices.
- 42 CFR 483.15 Quality of life.
- 42 CFR 483.25 Quality of care.

Any deficiency rating in the top row of the grid for any regulation constitutes immediate jeopardy.