

scriptive that few cases are being examined. The PRO projects only 300 case reviews each quarter -- as a means of examining quality provided at 281 HHAs and 535 SNFs.

"Over time we hope to expand that long term care effort [intervening care reviews] to a more comprehensive program that we believe is in line with the original legislative mandate," says AMPRA's Lisa Looper.

Resistance to the expansion comes primarily from industry groups that see the proposal as "political suicide," says AMPRA's Regina Buchanan. Excluding trade groups, about half of those solicited have signed onto AMPRA's letter, Buchanan adds.

HCFA has been cool to the notion of expanding PRO review beyond a narrow interpretation of congressional intent. It prefers to rely on survey efforts to examine quality in non-hospital settings.

Widespread Ignorance Found Over LTC Insurance Needs

Three out of five Americans believe their planning for old age is adequate, although fewer than one percent have private long term care insurance, reports New Jersey-based Continental Health Affiliates (CHA).

Nearly one respondent in five thinks insurance will cover nursing home and home health services. Only 400,000 citizens have long term care coverage. Of those, many have older policies that exclude for Alzheimer's disease, says CHA.

Nearly half (46 percent) of respondents think government should pay for services; 70 percent said employers should cover employees and spouses.

Beverly Inaugurates LTC Training Center

Beverly Enterprises' new training facility for industry professionals will open in 1989. The \$8 million Atlanta-based Van Tuyle Training Center is now open only to Beverly employees for specialized training in management philosophy, human resources management, and financial matters.

In 1989, Beverly expects to offer computerized situation simulation, as well as seminars in nursing

technology, dietary training, activities development, social services, housekeeping, accounting, and management.

About 2,000 Beverly staffers have attended one- or two-week training programs at the center. By year's end 10,000 are expected to have completed programs.



SPECIAL REPORT

Coping With the Nurse Shortage

The Reagan Administration, Congress, and provider groups are mobilizing to cope with the shortage of nurses in hospitals, nursing homes, and home health agencies.

HHS Secretary Otis Bowen, MD, recently set up the Commission on Nursing to develop public and private-sector strategies. The Commission will report to him by year's end.

"We really don't know what is happening on a state-by-state basis," says senior staffer Maureen Miller. A number of groups are in the final stages of collecting data which will help define the shortage. "In a few months, we should be rolling in data," she says.

Numerous bills introduced during the 100th Congress address the problem; among them, Sen. Edward Kennedy's (D-MA) Nursing Shortage & Reduction Act, Sen. George Mitchell's (D-ME) Nursing Manpower Shortage Act, and Rep. Ron Wyden's (D-OR) Nursing Shortage Reduction Act.

Aging organizations are getting active. In January, the National Foundation for Long Term Care (NFLTC) brought together professional and trade group leaders, representatives of academic institutions, and providers to examine the problem's scope, causes, and potential solutions.

NFLTC will approach the crisis in three ways, says President Paul Kerschner: a task force representing major nursing organizations and providers to evaluate legislative and regulatory initiatives; clinical care standards for nursing personnel in long-term care; and cooperative programs between schools of nursing and the nursing home industry.