INTRODUCTION

- Annual nursing home inspections examine facility practices to determine whether failure to deliver necessary care and services to residents occurred, issuing citation F224 if neglect is determined. This study examines associated deficiency citations when a nursing home is cited for neglect, including the 2567 forms from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).
- Nursing home citations for neglect (using citation F224) accounts for approximately 4% of annual deficiency citations.
- Staffing levels in nursing homes have been shown to significantly contribute to the quality of care delivered to residents.
- CMS has acknowledged the potential for an “aggregation of failures” with neglect.
- Building off generalized estimating equations (GEE) and odds ratios, this study further analyzed whether situations of neglect were individual occurrences or occurrences involving either multiple residents or multiple citations.

METHODOLOGY

- This study analyzed nursing home data from the Online Survey Certification and Reporting database (OSCAR) for years 2002 through 2008 (N = 104,843) and the 2567 forms from Florida facilities from 2007 – 2010.
- The Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA), which conducts surveys of long-term care facilities, provided a list of all Florida facilities cited for F224 in the study years. After receiving this list, the 2567 forms were manually downloaded from the AHCA website for each of these surveys indicating neglect of care.
- There were 77 nursing homes in Florida that were cited for F224 in the designated timeframe and, of those, there were only 48 surveys where the 2567 form could be located and downloaded from AHCA. Also, because F224 encompasses “misappropriation of resident property,” any 2567 forms that only described financial misdeeds in the issuance of F224 were omitted from the study, which removed only one form.
- The final sample was 47 facilities (and their 2567 forms indicating neglect) from the state of Florida.
- All analyses were conducted using SAS 9.3 and Microsoft Office Excel 2016.

RESULTS

- To analyze whether the issuance of F224 was an isolated incident with one or a few residents instead of part of poor systemic quality care within a facility, the 2567 forms were analyzed to determine individual versus systemic situations.
- The most common scope and severity score for the F224 tags was at the D-level (n = 13), followed by the G-level (n = 12). Of the F224 tags issued, 34% of citations were classified as at the immediate jeopardy level, and 89% of the substandard care deficiencies were at the J-level or higher.
- Additionally, there were only two surveys out of the sample of 47 where there were not multiple tags issued in addition to F224 (i.e., 96% of surveys analyzed had multiple tags issued to a facility when F224 was cited).
- On average, there were approximately ten residents involved in the citations issued with the included surveys (range = 1 resident involved up to 33 residents involved).
- Of the citations for F224, just over half of those citations involved only one resident (see Figure 2).
- The average number of related tags issued (that involve a resident/residents in F224) to facilities in study is 4.23 tags.
- Within the top ten citations related to neglect from analyses of the 2567 forms, only one citation – F520 – appeared in the GEE odds ratio results.

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- To improve quality of care and address at least 80% of the related F-Tags, from the data in the 2567 forms, the top eight most frequently issued tags that involved resident(s) in F224 should merit additional attention by administrators and policy makers. However, these results are different than the odds ratios using nationwide citations issued to facilities in the United States.
- The issuance of F224, from study analyses, did not indicate a consistent pattern of isolated cases (i.e., where only one resident is involved) or widespread poor quality of care cases (i.e., where there are multiple residents involved in multiple citations).

FUTURE RESEARCH

- Analyses of similar data (i.e., 2567 forms) should be expanded beyond Florida to determine if there’s a state or regional effect displayed in this data.
- Additionally, analyzing the relationship of high scope and severity F224 tags against the scope and severity of tags involving resident(s) in F224 would add valuable information to this topic.