



Survey Citation Trends Report

National and Regional Top 10 Recertification Survey Citations

Current as of August 4, 2026

Data Source: CMS CASPER / QCOR — Standard Health Surveys, Calendar Year 2026 (Full Year to Date)

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Executive Insights

A surveyor doesn't stop at your EMR. They look at your building, your staff, and your residents — and this year's national and regional data confirms exactly where that scrutiny is landing hardest.

1. Infection Control remains the single most-cited deficiency in the country — and it isn't close.

F880 (Infection Prevention & Control) is the #1 cited tag nationally and in 9 of 10 CMS regions, and it lands in the top 2 in the tenth (Region IX). Nationally it appears on over half of all standard surveys conducted in 2026. Regions VII (Kansas City) and VIII (Denver) show the most extreme concentration — F880 appears on 58% and nearly 60% of surveys in those regions, respectively. Whatever your infection prevention program looked like pre-2024, it needs a hard, honest re-audit now.

2. Dining and food service is the most consistently cited operational area in the country.

F812 (Food Procurement, Store/Prepare/Serve Sanitary) ranks in the top 3 nationally and in every single one of the ten CMS regions — the only tag on this list with that distinction. In Region IX (San Francisco) it is the #1 cited tag in the region, appearing on 68% of all standard surveys. This is not a regional anomaly; it is a national blind spot. Facilities are treating dietary as a lower-risk department relative to clinical care, and the data says that assumption is costing them.

3. Medication storage and labeling is the quiet third leg of nearly every region's top tier.

F761 (Label/Store Drugs and Biologicals) sits in the top 5 nationally and in every region except Region X, where it is still #4. It is the #2 tag in Region I (Boston). Pharmacy and med-room storage protocols deserve the same recurring internal audit cadence as clinical documentation — most facilities under-resource this relative to its citation risk.

4. Regional variance is real, and a national policy alone will not close the gap.

Care Planning (F656) is a top 3 issue in Regions VI (Dallas) and IX (San Francisco) but doesn't crack the top 10 driver position elsewhere with the same intensity. Quality of Care (F684) is unusually elevated in Region III (Philadelphia) and Region X (Seattle) — both top 3 — while ranking closer to #6-8 nationally. A single corporate-level P&P manual, applied identically across every building regardless of region, will systematically under-prepare facilities for what their specific state survey agency is actually citing.

5. Discharge Process is emerging as a regional pressure point in the middle of the country.

F628 (Discharge Process) appears in the top 10 in Regions VII, VIII, and X but not nationally in the top 10 — a signal that discharge planning scrutiny is intensifying in specific survey agencies well before it shows up as a national headline. Facilities in Kansas City, Denver, and Seattle regions should treat this as a live area of exposure, not a future one.

National — Top 10 Recertification Survey Citations

All CMS Regions Combined | Calendar Year 2026, Full Year to Date

Active Providers: **14,722** Standard Surveys Analyzed: **7,349**

Rank	Tag #	Citation Description	What the Data Shows
1	F880	Infection Prevention & Control	Found on 50.5% of surveys nationwide (cited on more than half of all surveys) — 3,713 total citations across 25.2% of active providers.
2	F812	Food Procurement, Store/Prepare/Serve Sanitary	Cited on 42.0% of surveys nationwide (cited on roughly 1 in 2 surveys) — 3,083 total citations across 20.9% of active providers.
3	F761	Label/Store Drugs and Biologicals	Flagged on 30.0% of surveys nationwide (cited on roughly 1 in 3 surveys) — 2,206 total citations across 15.0% of active providers.
4	F689	Free of Accident Hazards/Supervision/Devices	Showed up on 25.3% of surveys nationwide (cited on roughly 1 in 4 surveys) — 1,861 total citations across 12.6% of active providers.
5	F656	Develop/Implement Comprehensive Care Plan	Appeared on 23.1% of surveys nationwide (cited on roughly 1 in 4 surveys) — 1,694 total citations across 11.5% of active providers.
6	F684	Quality of Care	Found on 22.7% of surveys nationwide (cited on roughly 1 in 4 surveys) — 1,667 total citations across 11.3% of active providers.
7	F695	Respiratory/Tracheostomy Care and Suctioning	Cited on 18.6% of surveys nationwide (cited on roughly 1 in 5 surveys) — 1,365 total citations across 9.3% of active providers.
8	F677	ADL Care Provided for Dependent Residents	Flagged on 16.2% of surveys nationwide (cited on roughly 1 in 6 surveys) — 1,191 total citations across 8.1% of active providers.
9	F584	Safe/Clean/Comfortable/Homelike Environment	Showed up on 15.9% of surveys nationwide (cited on roughly 1 in 6 surveys) — 1,169 total citations across 7.9% of active providers.
10	F550	Resident Rights/Exercise of Rights	Appeared on 15.6% of surveys nationwide (cited on roughly 1 in 6 surveys) — 1,146 total citations across 7.8% of active providers.

Note: Tag names linked in the regional Key Insights that follow point to CMSCG's "Ftag of the Week" blog series. Some posts are available to the public; others require free CMSCG Subscriber access, available to healthcare providers at cmscompliancegroup.com/register/cmscg-subscriber-provider.

Region I — Boston

States: Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont

Active Providers: **792** Standard Surveys Analyzed: **452**

Key Insights

- **F880 (Infection Prevention & Control)** leads the region, cited on roughly 1 in 2 surveys (48.2% of surveys, 218 citations).
- **F658 (Services Provided Meet Professional Standards)** ranks #4 here but doesn't crack the national top 10 — a regional-specific pressure point worth a closer look, cited on 29.0% of surveys.
- **F656 (Develop/Implement Comprehensive Care Plan)** is ranked #8 in this region vs. #5 nationally — noticeably less prominent here than it is nationally.

Rank	Tag #	Citation Description
1	F880	Infection Prevention & Control
2	F761	Label/Store Drugs and Biologicals
3	F812	Food Procurement, Store/Prepare/Serve Sanitary
4	F658	Services Provided Meet Professional Standards
5	F684	Quality of Care
6	F689	Free of Accident Hazards/Supervision/Devices
7	F842	Resident Records - Identifiable Information
8	F656	Develop/Implement Comprehensive Care Plan
9	F657	Care Plan Timing and Revision
10	F584	Safe/Clean/Comfortable/Homelike Environment

Region II — New York

States: New Jersey, New York, Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands

Active Providers: **954** Standard Surveys Analyzed: **339**

Key Insights

- **F880 (Infection Prevention & Control)** leads the region, cited on roughly 1 in 2 surveys (49.9% of surveys, 169 citations).
- **F755 (Pharmacy Svcs/Procedures/Pharmacist/Records)** ranks #8 here but doesn't crack the national top 10 — a regional-specific pressure point worth a closer look, cited on 22.1% of surveys.
- **F584 (Safe/Clean/Comfortable/Homelike Environment)** is ranked #3 in this region vs. #9 nationally — noticeably more prominent here than it is nationally.

Rank	Tag #	Citation Description
1	F880	Infection Prevention & Control
2	F812	Food Procurement, Store/Prepare/Serve Sanitary
3	F584	Safe/Clean/Comfortable/Homelike Environment
4	F761	Label/Store Drugs and Biologicals
5	F695	Respiratory/Tracheostomy Care and Suctioning
6	F656	Develop/Implement Comprehensive Care Plan
7	F689	Free of Accident Hazards/Supervision/Devices
8	F755	Pharmacy Svcs/Procedures/Pharmacist/Records
9	F550	Resident Rights/Exercise of Rights
10	F686	Treatment/Svcs to Prevent/Heal Pressure Ulcer

Region III — Philadelphia

States: Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia, District of Columbia

Active Providers: **1,350** Standard Surveys Analyzed: **749**

Key Insights

- **F880 (Infection Prevention & Control)** leads the region, cited on roughly 1 in 2 surveys (46.7% of surveys, 350 citations).
- **F657 (Care Plan Timing and Revision)** ranks #7 here but doesn't crack the national top 10 — a regional-specific pressure point worth a closer look, cited on 28.0% of surveys.
- **F684 (Quality of Care)** is ranked #3 in this region vs. #6 nationally — noticeably more prominent here than it is nationally.

Rank	Tag #	Citation Description
1	F880	Infection Prevention & Control
2	F812	Food Procurement, Store/Prepare/Serve Sanitary
3	F684	Quality of Care
4	F656	Develop/Implement Comprehensive Care Plan
5	F761	Label/Store Drugs and Biologicals
6	F689	Free of Accident Hazards/Supervision/Devices
7	F657	Care Plan Timing and Revision
8	F584	Safe/Clean/Comfortable/Homelike Environment
9	F842	Resident Records - Identifiable Information
10	F641	Accuracy of Assessments

Region IV — Atlanta

States: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee

Active Providers: **2,654** Standard Surveys Analyzed: **1,230**

Key Insights

- **F880 (Infection Prevention & Control)** leads the region, cited on roughly 1 in 3 surveys (34.5% of surveys, 424 citations).
- **F641 (Accuracy of Assessments)** ranks #7 here but doesn't crack the national top 10 — a regional-specific pressure point worth a closer look, cited on 12.1% of surveys.

Rank	Tag #	Citation Description
1	F880	Infection Prevention & Control
2	F812	Food Procurement, Store/Prepare/Serve Sanitary
3	F761	Label/Store Drugs and Biologicals
4	F656	Develop/Implement Comprehensive Care Plan
5	F689	Free of Accident Hazards/Supervision/Devices
6	F695	Respiratory/Tracheostomy Care and Suctioning
7	F641	Accuracy of Assessments
8	F684	Quality of Care
9	F584	Safe/Clean/Comfortable/Homelike Environment
10	F550	Resident Rights/Exercise of Rights

Region V — Chicago

States: Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Wisconsin

Active Providers: **3,184** Standard Surveys Analyzed: **1,732**

Key Insights

- **F880 (Infection Prevention & Control)** leads the region, cited on more than half of all surveys (52.5% of surveys, 909 citations).
- **F686 (Treatment/Svcs to Prevent/Heal Pressure Ulcer)** ranks #6 here but doesn't crack the national top 10 — a regional-specific pressure point worth a closer look, cited on 20.4% of surveys.
- **F656 (Develop/Implement Comprehensive Care Plan)** is ranked #10 in this region vs. #5 nationally — noticeably less prominent here than it is nationally.

Rank	Tag #	Citation Description
1	F880	Infection Prevention & Control
2	F812	Food Procurement, Store/Prepare/Serve Sanitary
3	F689	Free of Accident Hazards/Supervision/Devices
4	F684	Quality of Care
5	F761	Label/Store Drugs and Biologicals
6	F686	Treatment/Svcs to Prevent/Heal Pressure Ulcer
7	F677	ADL Care Provided for Dependent Residents
8	F550	Resident Rights/Exercise of Rights
9	F695	Respiratory/Tracheostomy Care and Suctioning
10	F656	Develop/Implement Comprehensive Care Plan

Region VI — Dallas

States: Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas

Active Providers: **2,020** Standard Surveys Analyzed: **1,041**

Key Insights

- **F880 (Infection Prevention & Control)** leads the region, cited on more than half of all surveys (51.4% of surveys, 535 citations).
- **F755 (Pharmacy Svcs/Procedures/Pharmacist/Records)** ranks #5 here but doesn't crack the national top 10 — a regional-specific pressure point worth a closer look, cited on 24.7% of surveys.
- **F689 (Free of Accident Hazards/Supervision/Devices)** is ranked #7 in this region vs. #4 nationally — noticeably less prominent here than it is nationally.

Rank	Tag #	Citation Description
1	F880	Infection Prevention & Control
2	F812	Food Procurement, Store/Prepare/Serve Sanitary
3	F656	Develop/Implement Comprehensive Care Plan
4	F761	Label/Store Drugs and Biologicals
5	F755	Pharmacy Svcs/Procedures/Pharmacist/Records
6	F695	Respiratory/Tracheostomy Care and Suctioning
7	F689	Free of Accident Hazards/Supervision/Devices
8	F641	Accuracy of Assessments
9	F677	ADL Care Provided for Dependent Residents
10	F550	Resident Rights/Exercise of Rights

Region VII — Kansas City

States: Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska

Active Providers: **1,355** Standard Surveys Analyzed: **590**

Key Insights

- **F880 (Infection Prevention & Control)** leads the region, cited on more than half of all surveys (58.1% of surveys, 343 citations).
- **F628 (Discharge Process)** ranks #4 here but doesn't crack the national top 10 — a regional-specific pressure point worth a closer look, cited on 23.7% of surveys.

Rank	Tag #	Citation Description
1	F880	Infection Prevention & Control
2	F812	Food Procurement, Store/Prepare/Serve Sanitary
3	F689	Free of Accident Hazards/Supervision/Devices
4	F628	Discharge Process
5	F761	Label/Store Drugs and Biologicals
6	F677	ADL Care Provided for Dependent Residents
7	F584	Safe/Clean/Comfortable/Homelike Environment
8	F684	Quality of Care
9	F658	Services Provided Meet Professional Standards
10	F605	Right to be Free from Chemical Restraints

Region VIII — Denver

States: Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming

Active Providers: **574** Standard Surveys Analyzed: **267**

Key Insights

- **F880 (Infection Prevention & Control)** leads the region, cited on more than half of all surveys (59.6% of surveys, 159 citations).
- **F600 (Free from Abuse and Neglect)** ranks #7 here but doesn't crack the national top 10 — a regional-specific pressure point worth a closer look, cited on 14.6% of surveys.

Rank	Tag #	Citation Description
1	F880	Infection Prevention & Control
2	F812	Food Procurement, Store/Prepare/Serve Sanitary
3	F689	Free of Accident Hazards/Supervision/Devices
4	F761	Label/Store Drugs and Biologicals
5	F684	Quality of Care
6	F695	Respiratory/Tracheostomy Care and Suctioning
7	F600	Free from Abuse and Neglect
8	F628	Discharge Process
9	F605	Right to be Free from Chemical Restraints
10	F609	Reporting of Alleged Violations

Region IX — San Francisco

States: Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada, Guam, American Samoa

Active Providers: **1,418** Standard Surveys Analyzed: **724**

Key Insights

- **F812 (Food Procurement, Store/Prepare/Serve Sanitary)** leads the region, cited on nearly every survey conducted (68.4% of surveys, 495 citations).
- **F755 (Pharmacy Srvcs/Procedures/Pharmacist/Records)** ranks #5 here but doesn't crack the national top 10 — a regional-specific pressure point worth a closer look, cited on 39.2% of surveys.

Rank	Tag #	Citation Description
1	F812	Food Procurement, Store/Prepare/Serve Sanitary
2	F880	Infection Prevention & Control
3	F761	Label/Store Drugs and Biologicals
4	F656	Develop/Implement Comprehensive Care Plan
5	F755	Pharmacy Srvcs/Procedures/Pharmacist/Records
6	F689	Free of Accident Hazards/Supervision/Devices
7	F842	Resident Records - Identifiable Information
8	F684	Quality of Care
9	F695	Respiratory/Tracheostomy Care and Suctioning
10	F605	Right to be Free from Chemical Restraints

Region X — Seattle

States: Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, Washington

Active Providers: **421** Standard Surveys Analyzed: **225**

Key Insights

- **F880 (Infection Prevention & Control)** leads the region, cited on more than half of all surveys (50.2% of surveys, 113 citations).
- **F628 (Discharge Process)** ranks #6 here but doesn't crack the national top 10 — a regional-specific pressure point worth a closer look, cited on 31.6% of surveys.
- **F684 (Quality of Care)** is ranked #2 in this region vs. #6 nationally — noticeably more prominent here than it is nationally.

Rank	Tag #	Citation Description
1	F880	Infection Prevention & Control
2	F684	Quality of Care
3	F812	Food Procurement, Store/Prepare/Serve Sanitary
4	F761	Label/Store Drugs and Biologicals
5	F689	Free of Accident Hazards/Supervision/Devices
6	F628	Discharge Process
7	F677	ADL Care Provided for Dependent Residents
8	F656	Develop/Implement Comprehensive Care Plan
9	F695	Respiratory/Tracheostomy Care and Suctioning
10	F584	Safe/Clean/Comfortable/Homelike Environment

Are You Ready for What's Being Cited Right Now?

A surveyor doesn't stop at your EMR. They look at your building, your staff, and your residents — and so do we.

This data isn't theoretical — it's what's being cited in buildings like yours, in your region, right now. CMSCG's Survey Preparedness services, from full mock surveys to targeted Precision Reviews, put dedicated, discipline-specific consultants on the ground to find these gaps before a surveyor does, not after.

Compliance platforms manage your policy library. EMR analytics tools flag documentation gaps. Neither one walks your dining room during meal service, interviews your staff, or watches how a resident is actually being treated. CMSCG's Full Mock Survey does all three, across every department, because our knowledge is current only because our work never stops.

We find what others miss. We fix the system, not just the symptom.

Ready to see where your building stands?

Contact CMSCG to schedule a [Full Mock Survey or Survey Preparedness consultation](#).

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