

New resource for helping consumers

Ombudsmen who receive questions about long-term care from consumers can now offer them another resource - a new government website. Called the National Clearinghouse for Long-Term Care Information, the website was developed by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to provide information and resources to help consumers plan for future long-term care needs. The site consists of three sections: 1) "Understanding Long-Term Care" which covers definitions, services and payments, and costs and paying; 2) "Planning for Long-Term Care" in which the importance of planning, planning steps, and planning information and resources are discussed; and 3) "Paying for Long-Term Care" which addresses the cost of care, public programs, and private financing. HHS has also created a "Long-Term Care Planning Kit" to help consumers prepare for their long-term care needs. The kit can be ordered or downloaded. To access the website and the kit, go to: www.longtermcare.gov