



# HomeCare Elite™ 2009 Methodology

In order to create the list of HomeCare Elite agencies, OCS used publicly available data from Home Health Compare and the CMS Cost Reports. Three domains of performance were included in the calculation of the score – Quality of Care, Quality Improvement, and Financial Performance.

The Quality of Care measure indexes agencies' performance in each of the 12 public release Home Health Compare measures released in September of 2009. The Quality Improvement index is based on changes in the 12 outcomes between data released in September of 2008 and in September of 2009. The Financial Performance measure represents the agencies' indexed profit margin from the 2008 CMS Cost Reports (or 2007 adjusted when 2008 data was not available).

Each agency's performance in each of the three domains was compared against the performance of other organizations in their state and in the country. The three domains were combined into one overall score, using a weighting methodology that gives the greatest importance to Quality of Care. The top 25% of agencies in each region, both facility-based and free-standing, were identified and added to the national list. Additionally, the top 100 and 500 agencies in the country, based on overall score, were identified and highlighted for further recognition.