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MEMORANDUM

November 2002

OIG – Work Plan 2003 – -- details of the Work Plan can be found at <http://oig.hhs.gov>

MEDICARE NURSING HOMES

- Medicare Beneficiary Access to Skilled Nursing Facilities Under the Prospective Payment System
- Nursing Home Quality Assessment and Assurance Committees
- Nursing Home Medical Directors.
- Accuracy of Nursing Home Quality and Deficiency Data
- Nursing Home Survey and Certification: Consistency and Accuracy
- Nursing Home Survey and Certification: Identifying Repeat Offenders
- Nursing Home Reporting of Minimum Data Set
- Resource Utilization Group Assignments: Follow-up
- Program Integrity Safeguards
- Three-Day Stay
- Consolidated Billing Requirements
- Part B Payments for Beneficiaries in Nursing Homes
- Social Work Services in Skilled Nursing Facilities
- Nursing Home Deficiencies and Complaints
- Nursing Home Complaints to State Ombudsmen
- Nursing Home Informal Dispute Resolution Trends
- Nursing Home Enforcement

MEDICAID NURSING HOMES

- Medicaid Payments to Skilled Nursing Facilities for Medicare-Covered Services
- Payments to Public Nursing Facilities
- Payments for Ancillary Services in Nursing Homes
- Nursing Facility Administrative Costs
- Nursing Facility Staffing Requirements and Waivers
- Nursing Home Quality of Care Sanctions



MEDICAID RUGs – If you have not received a copy of the DMAS Technical Document regarding utilization review and appeals under the RUGs system, please let me know. In the near future, I will be able to provide you with a RUGs review that will be coordinated with an accounting firm that will assist you in identifying how much revenue is not being captured or is being lost due to inaccurate MDS assessments or assessments which can not be supported by other clinical record documentation during utilization review.

QUALITY MEASURES– If you need help in understanding, investigating, or revising systems based upon your facility Quality Measure report, let me know.

“SPOTLIGHT ON ABUSE” – VHCA is sponsoring a one-day workshop on identifying, reporting and investigating abuse. This is a dynamic program that will provide “hands-on” information on how to best protect your residents, your staff, and your facility. Training is being held on December 5th; call VHCA at 804-353-9101 for more information or to register. This is a session that you will want to attend.

HIPAA

- On October 2, 2002, CMS published Frequently Asked Questions [FAQ] on HIPAA; these can be found at <http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/faqs1001.doc>
- CMS will create a new office to its handle responsibilities under HIPAA to enforce the HIPAA transaction and code set standards [if you filed an extension request you are required to be compliant by 10/16/03; if you did not file an extension request & you are a covered entity, you are required to be compliant now], The office will also conduct outreach to health care providers and insurers to make sure they are aware of the requirements and to help them comply.
- The HHS Office for Civil Rights will enforce the HIPAA privacy standards. *You are required to be compliant with privacy standards by April 14, 2003.*

E-MAIL ADDRESS – If you would like to contact me by e-mail my address is maryltc@mindspring.com. If you send me your e-mail address, I will add you to my list of clients who receive updates such as this newsletter in a more timely fashion.



Facilitating Quality Healthcare Thru Care and Compliance