

MEMORANDUM

Date: September 2002
To: Clients
From: Mary Chiles, RN
Re: Updates/Reminders



MDS

- **Revisions to Questions & Answers** – CMS has published clarifications/revisions to the **Questions & Answers of May 2002**. Specifically, revisions are effective that impact coding of Section M [Wounds] and Section P/4 [restraints]. The “adjustments” may be found at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/medicaid/mds20/qa502adj.pdf>
- **Manual Revisions** – the CMS Website has published a “draft” RAI manual. CMS will accept comments on the “draft” through September 9th. Do not implement revisions discussed in the draft manual until CMS releases the final RAI Manual or provides additional instruction. The final manual is expected to be released by the end of the year.
- **Accuracy** – VHCA in collaboration with DMAS, VDH, and VHQC is conducting a 2-day training session on MDS Accuracy on October 1-2, 2002. This program will “build upon” the previous MDS program conducted in December 2001 and will provide the latest information regarding: effective documentation to support accurate coding of the MDS; information on Medicaid Utilization Review activities related to RUGs; information on how the MDS information will be used for the new Quality Measures, and operational considerations related to Medicaid RUGs. . A new CMS initiative “DAVE” [Data Accuracy Verification Evaluation]; which is anticipated to be implemented early 2003, will be discussed at this meeting. ***This is a training session that you do not want your MDS staff to miss***

Quality Measures

- All information indicates that CMS will implement the new Quality Measure project in October. This means that information regarding your nursing facility will be published in your newspaper. While the project continues to be fine tuned, at this point it is believed that some of the following measures will be reported on: [post acute population = failure to improve delirium; pain, improvement in walking; chronic population = pain, pressure ulcers, infections, late loss ADLs, restraints]. The methodology for some of the measures may be adjusted based upon FAP [Facility Admission Profile]. The VHQC [Virginia Health Quality Center] will provide additional information, as it is available. It is anticipated that the measures will be published October 15th.

HIPPA

- The final HIPPA regulations have been published and can be reviewed at http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/fedreg/a020814c.html
- The OCR [Office of Civil Rights] has published a question/answer quiz on their website at http://www.regreform.hhs.gov/hipaaquiz_0204171/sld001.htm
- **Remember to file your HIPPA extension request by October 15th** – but don’t wait until the last minute to do this. This extension provides you one additional year for full HIPPA compliance. If you have questions, please call me.

