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**MEMORANDUM**

Date: June 2003  
To: Clients  
Re: Updates



**Use of Nurse Practitioner, Physician Assistants, Clinical Nurse Specialist**

An April 10 letter to state survey agency directors (Ref: S&C-03-18), the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services clarifies various rules relating to physician delegation of tasks in skilled nursing facilities and nursing facilities. "PAs, NPs, and CNSs may provide medically necessary care to long term care residents, *except in those few situations where the regulations require that the task be personally performed by a physician or when prohibited by State law or facility policy.*" The memo also spells out who can write subsequent orders and sign certifications and recertifications in SNFs and NFs. To see the memo, go to <http://www.cms.gov/medicaid/lcsp/sc0318.pdf>.

**Restraint Reduction**

In January 2003, the Virginia Restraint Reduction Initiative published a family guide to restraint reduction that was developed by the Minnesota Department of Health. If you would like a copy of this document, please let me know. It contains user-friendly information that may be helpful in educating residents and family members regarding appropriate and inappropriate use of restraints.

**Virginia Pressure Ulcer Resource Team [VPURT]**

VPURT is a team of dedicated health care professionals from numerous perspective who want to improve quality of care and who have focus on pressure ulcer prevention, treatment, education, etc. VPURT has recently developed a website at <http://www.vpurt.org/>. The site provides good information and links to assist you in addressing pressure ulcers.

**Advanced Certification for Nurse Aides**

Final regulations [effective April 9, 2003] were published regarding advanced certification for Nurse Aides. The regulations establish qualifications for advanced certification, the requirements for renewal and the criteria for an approved education and training program. Regulations may be found at 18 VAC 90-20-361.

**MDS – Section S**

DMAS has revised instructions for completion of Section S of the MDS. These guidelines will soon be on the MDS bulletin board and on the DMAS website. In the meantime, if you need a copy, please let me know.

**Medicaid RUGs Utilization Review**

DMAS has revised the "RUG ITEM REVIEW GUIDELINES-MDS 2.0", Attachment 4 of the RUGs Technical Document. Changes were made to reflect clarifications in MDS coding instructions that were published in the December 2002 RAI Manual. These guidelines will soon be on the MDS bulletin board and on the DMAS website. In the meantime, if you need a copy please let me know.

**Life Safety Code Revised Regulations, effective September 2003**

The revised regulations may be found in the Federal Register of January 10, 2003. It is generally being reported that there is less tolerance for non-compliance during the LSC inspections being conducted across the state as part of your survey. Practices that may have been acceptable in the past are no longer considered compliant. The LSC inspection involves much more than simply looking to see if you have conducted appropriate fire drills. Scope and severity will be assigned to each deficiency and a POC is required. If you have not conducted a comprehensive internal review of your compliance with the LSC, this would be a wonderful QA project.

