

Chiles Healthcare Consulting, LLC
Mary Chiles, RN
1908 Maple Shade Lane, Richmond, Virginia 23227
Telephone 804-355-1943, FAX 804-355-1859, Pager 804-997-1060
E-mail: marylhc@mindspring.com

MEMORANDUM

October 2003

To: Clients
From: Mary Chiles, RN
Re: FYI



Immunizations/Vaccinations -- 2003 updates from CMS

The **Medicare Learning Network** serves as a guide to the resources available on the home page. This page is constantly updated, so check back often. Bookmark this page to get the latest information from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/medlearn/refimmu.asp>
During this year's flu season, it is important that people at high risk of complications from flu receive their flu vaccinations. Target the high risk by setting up a recall system or using a Standing Orders Program. Providers should continue to give flu vaccinations late in the season. Please don't forget to offer the pneumococcal vaccination.

The CDC updated last week its gallery of patient-education materials for the 2002-03 season. If you have material from past seasons, please do not use them because they do not reflect the current ACIP recommendations. Additional materials will be posted to this site as the season progresses. Go to: <http://www.cdc.gov/nip/Flu/Gallery.htm>.

Paid Feeding Assistants

Federal Register / Vol. 68, No. 187 / Friday, September 26, 2003 / Rules and Regulations, page 55528 [copy can be found at www.archives/federal_register] This final rule permits a long term care facility to use paid feeding assistants to supplement the services of certified nurse aides under certain conditions. States must approve training programs for feeding assistants using Federal requirements as minimum standards. Feeding assistants must successfully complete a State-approved training program and work under the supervision of a registered nurse or licensed practical nurse. The intent is to provide more residents with help in eating and drinking and reduce the incidence of unplanned weight loss and dehydration. **EFFECTIVE DATE:** These regulations are effective on October 27, 2003. I will forward you additional information on implementation as it becomes available.

2004 OIG Work Plan for Nursing Facilities

The following areas have been selected by the OIG [Office of Inspector General] for review in 2004. Note that some of these are continued from 2003 but that others have been added. Additional information or copy of the work plan can be found at <http://oig.hhs.gov/publications/docs/workplan/2004/2-CMS%20FY04.pdf> I you cannot access, let me know and I will send you a copy of the NF portion.

Medicare Nursing Homes

Access to Skilled Nursing Facilities Under the Prospective Payment System; Nurse Aide Registries; Nursing Home Reporting of Minimum Data Set; Resource Utilization Group Assignments: Follow up; Nursing Home Payment System Controls; Skilled Nursing Facilities' Involvement in Consecutive Inpatient Stays; Part B Payments for Beneficiaries in Nursing Homes; Imaging and Laboratory Services in Nursing Homes; Nursing Home Compliance With Dietary Services Requirements; State Compliance With Complaint Investigation Guidelines; Nursing Home Informal Dispute Resolution Trends; Nursing Home Enforcement

Medicaid Nursing Homes

Payments to Public Nursing Facilities; Nursing Facility Administrative Costs; Nursing Home Quality-of-Care Sanctions