

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: maryltc@mindspring.com

MEMORANDUM

Date: September 2003
To: Clients
Re: **Updates**



MDS Changes

CMS has posted over 50 changes to the RAI Manual that was published December 2002. While some of these changes offer simple clarification, there are some that are more significant. A copy of the changes can be downloaded from <http://cms.hhs.gov/medicaid/mds20/man-form.asp>. The document at the website contains a summary chart of the changes, but the summary is not inclusive of all changes, so you must read all 70 pages of the document. The changes are effective now.

The VHCA will be offering 2 all day inservices on the MDS Changes as well as other related topics in October. One will be offered in Richmond and the 2nd will be offered in Roanoke. YOU SHOULD PLAN TO ATTEND ONE OF THE SESSIONS; let me know if you need more information.

Survey Guidance

In the e-mail newsletter of 8/5/03 from SNFInfo Connection, the following was noted: Steven Pelovitz, director of CMS' survey and certification group, said during the July 29 SNF/Long-Term Care Open Door Forum that the agency will issue a new guidance on citing scope and severity in the next week or so and provide more detailed protocols on pressure sores and incontinence. I will keep you informed.

Medication Pass Observations During Survey

On 6/12/03, CMS sent a memo to the state survey agencies clarifying procedures for conducting medication pass observations. The focus of the memo, included flexibility in observing different routes of administration, observation of passes on different shifts, and that the physician order [not the MAR] is to be used for reconciliation of the observation. A copy of this memo can be found at <http://cms.hhs.gov/medicaid/survey-cert/sc0324.pdf>. If you need, I will be glad to send you a copy.

MRSA

Many LTC facilities continue to struggle with necessary precautions related to MRSA or other multi-resistant organisms. The CDC website at <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/hip/Aresist/nonhosp.htm> has an excellent article titled *Multidrug-Resistant Organisms in Non-Hospital Healthcare Settings*. This article has a good working definition of colonization and provides some matter of fact guidelines for preventing spread of infection. If you cannot access the article, let me know and I will forward you a copy.

Life Safety Code

New federal guidelines are effective September 11, 2003. More details to come soon.

VACATION – I will be on vacation beginning September 27 and will return to the office on Monday, October 6. I will NOT have the telephone or pager and will not be accessible by e-mail. If you need assistance, please call Nancy Newman at 540-847-5841.

