

FYI -- Updates

Date: December 2004



CHC Welcomes New Team Member

Mary Chiles, Nancy Newman and Donna Duss are pleased to welcome a new team member to “the alliance.” Carrie Faris comes with extensive long term care experience as an assistant administrator, assistant director of nursing and quality assurance director.

CMS Releases Change to Guidance to Surveyors related to Pressure Ulcers

CMS Transmittal 4, dated November 12, 2004, provides revision to F314 and new language to F309 to include certain definitions of non-pressure related ulcers. Though the tag definition has not changed, the interpretive guidelines and investigative protocols have been significantly revised. The investigative protocol provide surveyors (hence, providers) with a clear roadmap for “understanding” if a pressure ulcer is avoidable or unavoidable. Increased emphasis is placed on assessment (including identification of risk factors), interventions and monitoring (defined as “daily” for residents with pressure ulcers present). The new guidance also addresses staging of pressure ulcers, the healing pressure ulcer, infection in pressure ulcers, pain and dressings and treatments. These changes, effective November 19, 2004 and outlined in 41 pages, can be found at http://www.cms.hhs.gov/manuals/pm_trans/R4SOM.pdf.

SOM Changes – On 11/19/04, CMS released. This text is formatted differently that previous Interpretive Guidelines and the document is not paginated. Some of the changes are minor and are reflective of guidance being moved from one F-Tag to another F-Tag. However, two Tags contain new regulatory language: A copy of the revised SOM [all 317 pages] may be downloaded at http://www.cms.hhs.gov/manuals/transmittals/comm_date_dsc.asp

F-156 -- §483.10(b)(1) -- *The facility must inform the resident both orally and in writing in a language that the resident understands of his or her rights and all rules and regulations governing resident conduct and responsibilities during the stay in the facility. The facility must also provide the resident with the notice (if any) of the State developed under §1919(e)(6) of the Act. Such notification must be made prior to or upon admission and during the resident’s stay. Receipt of such information, and any amendments to it, must be acknowledged in writing;*

F-386 -- (3) Sign and date all orders *with the exception of influenza and pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccines, which may be administered per physician-approved facility policy after an assessment for contraindications.*



Merry Christmas

Mary, Nancy, Donna and Carrie wish you the Happiest of Holidays. We look forward to continuing to serve you in the New Year.

