

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

FYI -- Updates



Aim For Success

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Happy New Year

CHC would like to take this opportunity to thank you for allowing us to serve you in the past and to wish you and your team the very best for 2005. We will continue to make these newsletters available to you at no charge when we have information that we want to share with you. Please continue to monitor changes in regulation and interpretation/application of the regs through your involvement with your trade association; we do not attempt to bring you all of the changes.

Survey Focus – “ReCap of 2004”

The areas below have been identified as CHC as survey focus areas during the past year. These are not solely based on deficiency citations, but also include other areas that we have identified as trends during the survey process. Please take the opportunity through your QI process to review your current systems to ensure that they meet the intent of regulation; are consistent with current standards of practice, and are being applied consistently according to your policies/procedures. These are not presented in priority.

- Quality of Care – focus on blood sugars, pain management, use of thickeners, etc.
- Quality of Care – focus on pressure ulcers, weight loss; repeated falls, fractures, etc.
- Resident Rights – focus on “code status”; restraints, abuse investigation/reporting
- Dietary – focus on kitchen sanitation
- Pharmacy – focus on stored/expired meds; recommendations from pharmacists; unnecessary medications, etc.
- Assessment – focus on accuracy of MDS assessments; care plan content and revision for change
- Va. Code – RNs allowed to pronounce death under certain circumstance [LPNs may not do this]

CMS Action Plan for 2005

In December 2004, CMS released their Action Plan for further improvement of Nursing Home Quality. Some areas of focus include the following; if you would like a copy of the 26-page plan, please let me know and I will e-mail to you.

- **Consumer Awareness and Assistance:** CMS seeks to provide an increasing array of understandable information that can be accessed readily by the public.
- **Survey, Standards, and Enforcement Processes:** CMS will undertake more than 18 initiatives during 2005 to improve the effectiveness of the annual nursing home surveys, as well as the investigations that are prompted by complaints about nursing homes from consumers or family members. This may include some changes to way surveys are conducted and how findings are determined in addition to changes in enforcement procedures.
- **Quality Improvement:** CMS will be promoting a program of quality improvement in a number of key areas. These areas include reduction of restraints; reduction in the prevalence of preventable pressure sores; reduction in unplanned weight loss. Focus on MDS accuracy will continue.
- **Quality Through Partnerships:** Increased involvement with the QIOs.



Facilitating Quality Health Systems Thru Care and Compliance