

FYI – Update – August 2007



Office Move for OLC – New Address/FAX

The Office of Licensure and Certification moved in early August. It's new address is **9960 Mayland Drive, Ste. 401, Richmond, VA 23233; new FAX number is 804-527-4502.** Remember to update all posters and cover sheets for correspondence with them.

Paid Feeding Assistants – New Guidelines Effective 8/17/07

During the entrance conference, the survey team coordinator will “

- Ask the administrator if the facility utilizes paid feeding assistants. If yes, request further information about how and where the paid feeding assistants receive their training. Determine whether the training for the paid feeding assistant was provided through a State-approved training program by qualified professionals as defined by State law, with a minimum of 8 hours of training.
- Request the names of staff (including agency staff) who have successfully completed training for paid feeding assistants, and who are currently assisting selected residents with eating meals and/or snacks;”

Educational records to validate required training has been completed may be requested.

It is important that you read the Interpretive Guidelines for requirements related to supervision of the paid feeding assistance by licensed nurse and the requirements related to system for calling for assistance when needed. A training kit can be obtained from AHCA; kit includes six *Assisted Dining: The Role and Skills of Feeding Assistants* manuals plus video. Product code is 6791; price is \$239.00 for non-members and \$159.00 for members.

New Guidelines for Accidents – Effective August 6, 2007

On Friday 8/17/07, CMS posted the final guidance for F-323 on Accidents. While there is a great deal on discussion on falls within this guidance, there is also significant focus on “hazards” which refers to elements of the resident environment that have the potential to cause injury or illness. *In the guidelines CMS has defined that “accident” refers to any unexpected or unintentional incident, which may result in injury or illness to a resident. This does not include adverse outcomes that are a direct consequence of treatment or care that is provided in accordance with current standards of practice (e.g., drug side effects or reaction).* So, what can you do? For starters you can:

- Complete a self-assessment of the hazards within your home and grounds [don't forget your parking lots and surrounding grounds] and to establish a plan for correction and on-going monitoring.
- Examine policies and procedures related to maintaining safe environment – water temperatures, storage of chemicals, beauty shop access, call bell maintenance, mechanical lift safety checks, use of power wheelchairs/motorized scooters, etc.
 - How effective is your process for communication of areas that need repair/replacement to the maintenance/engineering department?
- Examine systems in which you may identify change in resident's conditions that may increase their vulnerability to accidents/injury?

CHC will be offering an Accident Resource Manual within the next few weeks. This manual will include sample policy & procedures, tools for assessment and monitoring, educational resources, etc. It will cross over all departments and environment of your facility. Contact Mary at maryltc@mindspring.com if interested in more information.

Assisted Living

At the request of several of our clients, CHC has begun offering mock surveys for Assisted Living Facilities. We are also in process of refining an inservice program designed to assist staff in ALFs in providing the most appropriate documentation. If you are interested in having a mock survey in your assisted living facility, please contact Mary at maryltc@mindspring.com.

