

FYI – Update – July 2007



Accident Prevention – New Interpretive Guidelines

On 7/6/07, CMS published an advanced copy of the new/revised Interpretive Guidelines for Accident Prevention which will be effective 8/6/07. These guidelines combine tags F-323 and F-324 into one tag, F-323, on accident prevention. These guidelines take on the same manner and format as other newly revised guidelines, with some very specific expectations of providers and very specific guidance to the surveyors on related tags to be considered and scope/severity. Focus points include: falls, smoking, oxygen use, elopement, entrapment, transfer equipment, resident behavior, and environmental/physical plant considerations.

Note: In the past 6 months or so, it appears that there has been an increase in Virginia citations related to the current F-323 and F-324 tags. Focus has been on assessment and identification of risk factors, individualized plans which are continually reviewed for need of change, and staff carryover of the plan. Many of the tags reported observations during the survey that were not reflective of current orders or plans of care [i.e. alert alarms not applied or not functional, etc.].

CHC is in the process of pulling together a comprehensive resource manual on accident prevention in long term care facilities – this manual will include sample assessment tools, care plans and QI tools; educational material; as well as listing of other available resources. We hope to have this resource available to you by mid August.

Infection Control

In June 2007, the CDC published a detailed document, *The Guideline for Isolation Precautions: Preventing Transmission of Infectious Agents in Healthcare Settings 2007* updates and expands the *1996 Guideline for Isolation Precautions in Hospitals*. The document is designed to provide infection control precautions for healthcare providers across the continuum of care. Guidelines may be found at: <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dhqp/pdf/isolation2007.pdf>

Survey Focus

On 5/6/07, CMS sent letters to the state survey agency reminding them of the requirement to have a policy on communication with the Ombudsman office. *“Contact the ombudsman office in accordance with the policy developed between the State survey agency and State ombudsman agency. The purposes of this contact are to notify the ombudsman of the proposed day of entrance into the facility and to obtain any information the ombudsman wished to share with the survey team. Ascertain whether the ombudsman will be available if residents participating in the group or individual interviews wish her/him to be present.”*

MDS

CMS has created a web-based program for training for accurate completion of the MDS. This site requires registration but is free and is very user friendly. It includes both slide show and audio components and can be accessed quickly for specific areas of the MDS. Visit the site at mdstraining.org

