

FYI – Update –



Change to SNF Bed Hold Policy -- Effective 6/30/08

May 30th CMS transmittal Pub 100-04 included:

Charges to a beneficiary for admission or readmission to a Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) are not allowable. However, when temporarily leaving a SNF, a resident can choose to make bed-hold payments to the SNF. Under the Social Security Act (Section 1819(c)(1)(B)(iii)); (see http://www.ssa.gov/OP_Home/ssact/title18/1819.htm on the internet) and the Code of Federal Regulations (42 CFR §483.10(b)(5)-(6)), a SNF must inform residents in advance of their option to make bed-hold payments, as well as the amount of the facility's charge.

- **Reminder: F-205 requires** (1) Notice before transfer. Before a nursing facility transfers a resident to a hospital or allows a resident to go on therapeutic leave, the nursing facility **must provide written information** to the resident and a family member or legal representative that specifies--(i) The duration of the bed-hold policy under the State plan, if any, during which the resident is permitted to return and resume residence in the nursing facility; and (ii) The nursing facility's policies regarding bed-hold periods, which must be consistent with paragraph (b)(3) of this section, permitting a resident to return.
- The CMS Transmittal is only relative to those beds certified for skilled nursing care.

DMAS Will Pay for Special Equipment for Bariatric Residents

In recent years, DMAS has seen an increase in requests for nursing home placements of the morbidly obese (also known as bariatric) participant, typically **more than 350 pounds in weight**. Most NF's have beds, Geri chairs, lifts, and wheelchairs to accommodate those NF residents who are less than 350 lbs. However, for those individuals who are more than 350 lbs., the equipment does not accommodate them. In addition, some of these participants require additional nursing care with activities of daily living. As the need has grown, we acknowledge that we need to inform all of the Virginia Nursing Facilities enrolled as a Medicaid provider that we will reimburse for bariatric equipment needs to include bariatric beds, bariatric patient lifts, and bariatric wheelchairs. These special requests for Medicaid residents are reviewed and reimbursed on a case by case basis. Requests should be sent to Melissa Fritzman at melissa.fritzman@dmas.virginia.gov. If you need more information contact Melissa at DMAS or CHC.

MDS Coding – Section H/3/a Scheduled Toileting

In May 2008, CMS published a "Tip Sheet" for accurate coding at H/3/a for scheduled toileting. There is no change to the coding guidelines from the RAI Manual, but renewed focus on this area. Coding Tips included: Plan. The plan must be based on the **individualized** assessment of the resident's need for a toileting program. Consider the following items when evaluating whether a scheduled toileting plan/program may be coded at H3a:

1. The plan should contain an **individualized, resident-specific** toileting schedule – listed either by hours or around the resident's pattern. [Note: This does not include generic, every two-hour toileting; nor does it include a plan/schedule that is the same for all incontinent residents.]
2. The **resident's individualized plan** should be clearly communicated and be available and accessible to staff and the resident (as appropriate), via the resident care plan, flow records, verbal and written report, etc.
3. The **resident's response** to the toileting program and subsequent evaluation should be documented in the clinical record and include when changes have been made, depending on the resident's response.
4. If the resident is coded a "4" (totally incontinent) in item H1, then clinical documentation would need to be present to support the appropriateness of coding item H3a.

VHCA "SMART" Program

To date there are over 660 surveys in the VHCA data base; a new analysis and detail report will be completed in July. If you have not sent your information in or would like more information about this exciting project contact Mary Chiles at maryltc@mindspring.net.

CHC Schedule – this is the time to book your mock surveys or educational needs for late summer and fall. Give us a call to get your visit on the schedule.

