

Center for Medicaid and State Operations/Survey and Certification Group

Ref: S&C-08-28

DATE: June 20, 2008

TO: State Survey Agency Directors

FROM: Director
Survey and Certification Group

SUBJECT: **Nursing Homes** - Issuance of Revised Nutrition and Sanitary Conditions (Tags F325 and F371) as Part of Appendix PP, State Operations Manual, and Training Materials

Memorandum Summary

- **Effective Date:** Revised guidance for long-term care surveyors regarding Nutrition and Sanitary Conditions (Tags F325 and F371) will be effective September 1, 2008.
- **Memo Includes:** An advance copy of this guidance and training materials are attached.
- **Action:** This training packet is to be used to assure that all surveyors who survey nursing homes are trained in the revised guidance by the implementation date.

Revised surveyor guidance for surveying Nutrition and Sanitary Conditions requirements in long-term care facilities will become effective on September 1, 2008. At that time, a final copy of this new guidance will be available at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/Transmittals/> and ultimately incorporated into Appendix PP of the State Operations Manual. Corresponding Automated Survey Process Environment (ASPEN) changes are expected to be in place by the end of August.

Here, we are providing an advance copy of the revised Nutrition and Sanitary Conditions guidance, which addresses the interpretive guidelines, the investigative protocol, and determination of compliance. The interpretive guidelines clarify areas such as assessment, care planning, and interventions related to nutrition and sanitary conditions for nursing home residents. The investigative protocol explains objectives and procedures surveyors will need for their investigations. Deficiency categorization provides severity guidance for the determination of the correct level of severity of outcome to residents from deficiencies found at Tags F325 and/or Tag F371.

Also attached to this memo are training materials for the revised Tags F325 and F371. The training packet is to be utilized in assuring that all surveyors who survey nursing homes are trained in the revised guidance by the implementation date. We encourage training to be conducted in person with group discussion to optimize learning. However, if this is not feasible to meet the needs of your surveyors, it is acceptable to use other methods. This guide may also be used to communicate with provider groups and other stakeholders.

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RO training coordinators will document the completion of training on this new guidance for all RO and State nursing home surveyors within their region.

Enclosed with this memorandum are the following files:

- Guidance Training Instructor Guide – (Word file);
- PowerPoint presentation file – (PowerPoint file); and
- Advance copy of surveyor guidance on Tags F325 & F371 Guidance – (Word file).

For questions on this memorandum, please contact Debra Swinton-Spears at 410-786-7506 or via email at debra.swinton-spears@cms.hhs.gov.

Effective Date: September 1, 2008. The State Agency should disseminate this information within 30 days of the date of this memorandum.

Training: The materials should be distributed immediately to all State Agencies and training coordinators.

/s/

Thomas E. Hamilton

cc: Survey and Certification Regional Office Management

Enclosures: Advance copy of Tags F325 and F371 Interpretive Guidelines
PowerPoint Presentation
Training Instructor Guide/Handouts