

Center for Medicaid and State Operations/Survey and Certification Group

Ref: S&C-09-54

DATE: August 14, 2009

TO: State Survey Agency Directors

FROM: Director
Survey and Certification Group

SUBJECT: **Nursing Homes** - Issuance of Revisions to Interpretive Guidance at F Tag 441, as Part of Appendix PP, State Operations Manual (SOM), and Training Materials

Memorandum Summary

- Revisions have been made to Guidance to Surveyors at F Tag 441 in Appendix PP of SOM concerning Infection Control.
- Tags F442, 443, 444, and 445 are deleted and the regulatory language and guidance moved to F441.
- A training document with speaker notes for Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Regional Offices (ROs) and State Survey Agencies (SAs) to use to train surveyors on this revision to F tag 441 in the SOM is included in this memorandum.
- Power point slides will be issued to ROs and SAs under a separate communication.

We made changes to surveyor guidance for Infection Control in Appendix PP of the SOM. The changes will provide clarification to nursing home surveyors when determining compliance with the regulatory requirements for infection control. The regulatory language will remain unchanged.

We deleted F Tags 442, 443, 444, and 445 which contained language about preventing the spread of infections, and incorporated the guidance into F Tag 441.

This revision will be implemented on September 30, 2009. 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 SOM.

Here, we are providing an advance copy of the revised guidance. All new language is presented in red and italics. Also attached to this memorandum are training materials for the revised Tag. 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. These materials were presented and discussed in a teleconference with ROs on August 3, 2009. 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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Enclosed with this memorandum are the following files:

- Transmittal Sheet describing changes;
- Advance copy of surveyor guidance revision; and
- Guidance Training Instructor Guide in Microsoft Word

PowerPoint training slides will be made available to ROs and SAs under a separate communication.

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

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 30, 2009. The State Agency should disseminate this information within 30 days of the date of this memorandum.

Training: The training materials should be distributed immediately to all SA training coordinators.

/s/

Thomas E. Hamilton

cc: Survey and Certification Regional Office Management