

Center for Medicaid and State Operations/Survey and Certification Group

Ref: S&C-06-09

DATE: March 10, 2006

TO: State Survey Agency Directors

FROM: Director
Survey and Certification Group

SUBJECT: **Nursing Homes** - Issuance of Revised Activities Guidance (Tags F248 and F249) as Part of Appendix PP, State Operations Manual, and Training Materials

Letter Summary

- Revised guidance for long-term care surveyors regarding Activities (Tags F248 and F249) will be effective June 1, 2006.
- An advance copy of this guidance and training materials are attached.
- This 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.

Revised surveyor guidance for surveying Activities requirements in long-term care facilities will become effective on June 1, 2006. 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.

Here, we are providing an advance copy of the revised Activities guidance, which addresses the interpretive guidelines, the investigative protocol, and determination of compliance. The interpretive guidelines clarify areas such as assessment, care planning, interventions, and activity approaches for residents with behavioral symptoms. The investigative protocol explains objectives and procedures surveyors will need for their investigation. Deficiency categorization provides severity guidance for the determination of the correct level of severity of outcome to residents from deficiencies found at Tags F248 and/or Tag F249.

Also attached to this memo are training materials for the revised Tags F248 and F249. This 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. These materials were presented and discussed in a teleconference with Regional Offices (ROs) on February 1, 2006. 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 – (pdf file);
- PowerPoint presentation file – (PowerPoint file); and
- Advance copy of surveyor guidance on Tags F248 & F249 Guidance – (Word file).

For questions on this memorandum, please contact Karen Schoeneman at 410-786-6855 or via email at karen.schoeneman@cms.hhs.gov.

Effective Date: June 1, 2006. 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 (G-5)

Enclosures: Advance copy of Tags F248 and F249
PowerPoint Presentation
Training Instructor Guide