

Center for Medicaid and State Operations/Survey and Certification Group

Ref: S&C-07-25

DATE: July 6, 2007

TO: State Survey Agency Directors

FROM: Director
Survey and Certification Group

SUBJECT: **Nursing Homes** - Issuance of Revised Guidance for 42 C.F.R. § 483.25(h)(1) and (2): Accidents and Supervision Guidance (Tags F323 and F324 combined into one tag F323) as Part of Appendix PP, State Operations Manual, and Training Materials

Memorandum Summary

- F323 and F324 are combined to create F323.
- Revised guidance for long-term care surveyors regarding 42 C.F.R. §483.25(h)(1)and(2): Accidents and Supervision (Tag F323) will be effective August 6, 2007.
- 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 Accidents and Supervision (Tag F323) requirements in long-term care facilities will become effective on August 6, 2007. 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. Also, we will discontinue the use of Tag F324 when surveying for compliance in the area of Accidents and Supervision.

Here, we are providing an advance copy of the revised Accidents and Supervision guidance, which addresses the interpretive guidelines, the investigative protocol, and determination of compliance. The interpretive guidelines clarify areas such as resident supervision, hazard identification and resident risk, falls, unsafe wandering/elopement, environmental assessment of hazards, and resident-to-resident altercations. 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 Tag F323.

Also attached to this memo are training materials for the revised Tag F323. 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. We encourage training 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. Additionally, you may use these training materials with provider groups and other stakeholders to communicate the guidance changes.

Regional Office (RO) training coordinators must 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 Tag F323 Guidance – (pdf file).

For questions on this memorandum, please contact Jeane Nitsch at 410-786-1411 or James Merrill at 410-786-6998 or via email at Jeane.Nitsch@cms.hhs.gov or James.Merrill@cms.hhs.gov

Effective Date: August 6, 2007. 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 Tag F323
PowerPoint Presentation
Training Instructor Guide