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September 25, 2006

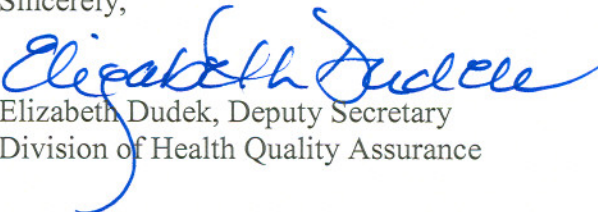
Dear Nursing Home Administrator:

To facilitate improvement in the survey process, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) contracted with the University of Colorado to revise the survey process and focus on consistent applications of regulatory standards. The process under evaluation utilizes computer software and tablet PCs to structure the survey process such that the process is semi-automated. The regulations have not changed, only the process itself. CMS has conducted limited pilot studies in five states to test the process itself and is now ready to begin releasing the process nationally. The Agency for Health Care Administration (Agency), Florida's state survey agency, has been asked to develop an implementation strategy for and implement the first full state rollout of the new survey process, a process that would then be the model for other states.

To facilitate this rollout, CMS and the Agency are scheduling a conference call Friday, October 6 from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Eastern time. The dial-in number is 410-786-3100, and the participant code is 413832. CMS has reserved 250 lines for this call. The purpose of the call will be to further explain the survey process, and answer questions the provider community and other long term care partners may have. We need to minimize the number of lines used by participants whenever possible; participants from individual organizations will need to share a single line to afford as many participants as possible to be involved in the call. Of course, participants will be reminded to place their telephones on mute during the call when not asking questions (this will help to minimize extraneous noise during the call). The call will be guided by a PowerPoint presentation that will be posted on the Web, so it will be necessary for each participant group to have a connection to the Internet in order to view the presentation. The link that will be used for the Quality Indicator Survey (QIS) Rollout presentation is: <http://www.uchsc.edu/hcpr/slides/>. The presentation is not yet posted, but will be located on this site once it's available (likely in early October).

We are excited about this opportunity and look forward to working with you as we implement the new survey process. If you have any questions, you may call Ms. Polly Weaver, Chief of Field Operations at 850-414-9796 or Ms. Barbara Alford, Tallahassee Field Office Manager and QIS Project Coordinator at 850-922-8844.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Dudek, Deputy Secretary  
Division of Health Quality Assurance

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