



IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH & WELFARE

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INFORMATIONAL LETTER #2012-02

DATE: November 28, 2012

TO: ADMINISTRATORS OF ALL SKILLED NURSING FACILITIES IN IDAHO

FROM: DEBBY RANSOM, R.N., R.H.I.T., Chief
Bureau of Facility Standards

SUBJECT: **S&C: 12-46-NH** — F tag 322—Feeding Tubes - Advance Copy

The Survey and Certification Letter listed above was released by CMS on September 27, 2012.

This Survey and Certification Letter with this Informational Letter is posted on our web site at www.facilitystandards.idaho.gov. Scroll to the bottom of the page labeled *Facility Standards (Providers' Page)* and on the right hand side is the title "Informational Letters". Click on the bottom item entitled "State Letters" and that will take you to all our Bureau released Informational Letters.

If you have any questions, please contact Loretta Todd, RN, or Lorene Kayser, LSW, Co-Supervisors, Long Term Care program, in our offices at 208/334-6626.



DEBBY RANSOM, R.N., R.H.I.T., Chief
Bureau of Facility Standards

DR/nm
Attachment

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
7500 Security Boulevard, Mail Stop C2-21-16
Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850



Center for Clinical Standards and Quality/ Survey & Certification Group

Ref: S&C: 12-46-NH

DATE: September 27, 2012
TO: State Survey Agency Directors
FROM: Director
Survey and Certification Group
SUBJECT: F tag 322—Feeding Tubes-Advance Copy

Memorandum Summary

- **Revision to F tag 322:** Revisions have been made to Guidance to Surveyors at F tag 322 in Appendix PP of SOM concerning Feeding Tubes.
- **Collapsed F tag 321:** F tag 321 is deleted and the regulatory language and guidance moved to F tag 322.
- **Training:** Power Point training material with speaker notes for Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Regional Offices (ROs) and State Survey Agencies (SAs) to be used to train surveyors on this revision to F tag 322 in the SOM are provided.

The CMS made revisions to interpretive guidelines for Feeding Tubes in Appendix PP of the SOM to provide clarification to nursing home surveyors when determining compliance with the regulatory requirements for feeding tubes. The regulatory language will remain unchanged.

We deleted F tag 321 which contained language about not using feeding tubes unless unavoidable, and incorporated the guidance into F tag 322. These revisions should be implemented no later than November 30, 2012 and we are providing an advance copy of the revised guidance. All new language is presented in red and italics.

These materials will be presented and discussed in a teleconference with ROs in May 2013. We encourage training to be conducted in person with group discussion to optimize learning.

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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.

Advance copy of the surveyor guidance and PowerPoint training slides are enclosed with this memorandum.

For questions on this memorandum, please contact Susan Joslin at 410-786-3516 or via email at Susan.Joslin@cms.hhs.gov.

Effective Date: No later than November 30, 2012. 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

Attachments

cc: Survey and Certification Regional Office Management