



Center for Clinical Standards and Quality/Survey & Certification Group

Admin Info: 14-23-NH

DATE: April 18, 2014

TO: State Survey Agency Directors

FROM: Director
Survey and Certification Group

SUBJECT: Focused Dementia Care Survey

Memorandum Summary

- **Seeking Volunteer States:** The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is seeking volunteer states to participate in a short-term focused review to more thoroughly examine the process for prescribing antipsychotic medications as well as other dementia care practices in nursing homes. CMS wants to gain new insights about surveyor knowledge, skills and attitudes and ways that the current survey process may be streamlined to more efficiently and accurately identify and cite deficient practice as well as to recognize successful dementia care programs.
- **Dementia Care Pilot and Survey Description:** Located in S&C: 14-22-NH, *Focused Minimum Data Set (MDS) and Dementia Care Surveys*.
- **Conference Call:** Conference call for States considering participation in the pilot will be held on May 21, 2014 from 2:00-3:00 PM (EST).

Background

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is seeking volunteer States to participate in a short-term focused review to more thoroughly examine the process for prescribing antipsychotic medications as well as other dementia care practices in nursing homes. CMS wants to gain new insights about surveyor knowledge, skills and attitudes and ways that the current survey process may be streamlined to more efficiently and accurately identify and cite deficient practice as well as to recognize successful dementia care programs.

We more fully describe the pilot and the dementia care survey in S&C: 14-22-NH, *Focused Minimum Data Set (MDS) and Dementia Care Surveys*.

Next Steps

A conference call will be held on May 21, 2014 at 2:00pm (EST) for interested SAs to further discuss this pilot initiative. States must make a final determination about interest to participate by May 28, 2014 with training to begin soon thereafter.

For questions on the focused Dementia Care Survey and to volunteer for the pilot, please contact Michele Laughman via email at dnh_behavioralhealth@cms.hhs.gov.

Effective Date: Immediately. The information contained in this memorandum should be shared with appropriate survey and certification staff, their managers, and State and Regional Office training coordinators.

/s/

Thomas E. Hamilton

cc: Survey and Certification Regional Office Management