



Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

Office of Health Care Quality

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Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr., Governor - Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor - Van T. Mitchell, Secretary

DATE: May 14, 2015

TO: Nursing Home Administrators
Minimum Data Set Coordinators

FROM: Margie Heald
Deputy Director – Federal Programs

RE: Minimum Data Set Focused Surveys

The Office of Health Care Quality's nursing home surveyors will begin conducting Minimum Data Set (MDS) Focused surveys this federal fiscal year. This year, these surveys will be conducted in a limited number of facilities. Surveys will focus on compliance with MDS and nurse staffing requirements, (F272 - F287, F353 – F356).

The focused surveys **will not** be conducted during a standard recertification survey. However, these surveys may be done immediately before or after a complaint survey. In these cases, each survey will be completed and documented separately.

Deficiencies identified during the MDS Focused surveys will result in relevant citations and enforcement actions in accordance with normal and existing CMS policy and regulations. In the event that additional care concerns (beyond the MDS and staffing foci of this focused survey) are identified during on-site reviews, those concerns will be investigated during the survey or, if immediate investigation is not possible, be entered as a complaint for review during another visit.

In order to facilitate this survey process, I have attached a copy of the MDS Focused survey worksheet #1 that will be given to facility staff upon initiation of a focused survey. It is expected that the form will be completed in one hour. The faster a facility provides this information to the surveyors, the faster the survey team can begin conducting their reviews and complete the survey. It is estimated that most surveys will take two days.

If you have any questions about the MDS Focused survey, please e-mail them to CMS at MDSforSandC@cms.hhs.gov and they will be happy to answer your questions promptly.

For additional information regarding these surveys and to review the results of the pilot surveys conducted last year, go to the following link: <http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Provider-Enrollment-and-Certification/SurveyCertificationGenInfo/Downloads/Survey-and-Cert-Letter-15-25.pdf>



