



Center for Clinical Standards and Quality/Survey & Certification Group

Admin Info: 15-47-NH

DATE: September 04, 2015

TO: State Survey Agency Directors

FROM: Director
Survey and Certification Group

SUBJECT: Surveyor Feedback on the Interpretive Guidance (IG) in Appendix PP of the State Operations Manual (SOM) for Nursing Homes

Memorandum Summary

- **Release of Long-Term Care Survey Questionnaire:** As part of a data-gathering effort, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is releasing a questionnaire for Regional Office (RO) and State Survey Agency (SA) Long Term Care (LTC) surveyors to determine how to improve the survey tools available. We will use the results of this survey to help draft the Interpretive Guidance in Appendix PP of the SOM used in the long term care survey process. The survey will be open September 4, 2015 and can be accessed for two weeks.
- **Requesting RO and SA Assessment:** We are asking RO and SAs surveyors to complete the brief on-line survey to tell us where they have identified problems with the content and size of the IG in Appendix PP of the (SOM).

Background

The CMS Division of Nursing Homes is conducting a survey intended to elicit feedback from LTC surveyors to help guide us in drafting IG for Appendix PP of the SOM.

Request

We are asking all RO and State LTC surveyors complete a brief on-line survey to describe any suggestions for improvement, or describe challenges they have encountered when using the SOM IG to conduct surveys of long term care facilities. We will use this information to provide better assistance and develop guidance that will be more useful for surveyors in determining regulatory compliance. The survey has been created in Survey Monkey, should take ten minutes or less to complete, and can be accessed until **Friday, September 18, 2015** at the following link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LTCSOM>.

We appreciate your assistance in designing future interpretive guidance concerning the new LTC regulation that surveyors will find useful.

Contact: Questions regarding this memorandum may be addressed to Alisa Overgaard at Alisa.Overgaard@cms.hhs.gov.

Effective Date: Immediately. This policy should be communicated with all survey and certification staff, their managers and the State/Regional Office training coordinators within 30 days of this memorandum.

/s/

Thomas E. Hamilton

Attachment: Survey Monkey Questionnaire

cc: Survey and Certification Regional Office Management