

Center for Medicaid and State Operations/Survey and Certification Group

Ref: S&C-06-20

**DATE:** June 15, 2006

**TO:** State Survey Agency Directors

**FROM:** Director  
Survey and Certification Group

**SUBJECT:** **Nursing Homes** – Implementation of the New Psychosocial Outcome Severity Guide

Letter Summary

- CMS delayed the June 1, 2006 implementation of the Psychosocial Outcome Severity Guide.
- The Psychosocial Outcome Severity Guide is implemented and effective as of June 8, 2006.
- There were no changes to the Psychosocial Outcome Severity Guide from the advance copy version released on March 10, 2006 in memorandum S&C-06-10.

This is to announce the implementation of the Psychosocial Outcome Severity Guide (the Guide) for surveyors of long term care facilities. The Guide was sent out in an advance copy on March 10, 2006 in memorandum S&C-06-10 and was originally scheduled to be effective June 1, 2006. CMS delayed implementation so that CMS could respond to concerns from one of our stakeholders. The Guide is now effective as of June 8, 2006. No changes have been made to the Guide that was sent out as an advance copy in memorandum S&C-06-10. The final copy of the Guide will be available at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/Transmittals/> and incorporated into Appendix P of the State Operations Manual.

For questions on this memorandum, please contact Jeane Nitsch at 410-786-1411 or via email at [Jeane.Nitsch@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Jeane.Nitsch@cms.hhs.gov).

**Effective Date:** June 8, 2006.

**Training:** This information should be distributed immediately to all State Agencies and training coordinators.

/s/

Thomas E. Hamilton  
Director

cc: Survey and Certification Regional Office Management (G-5)