

Center for Medicaid and State Operations/Survey and Certification Group

Ref: S&C-07-25

**DATE:** July 6, 2007

**TO:** State Survey Agency Directors

**FROM:** Director  
Survey and Certification Group

**SUBJECT:** **Nursing Homes** - Issuance of Revised Guidance for 42 C.F.R. § 483.25(h)(1) and (2): Accidents and Supervision Guidance (Tags F323 and F324 combined into one tag F323) as Part of Appendix PP, State Operations Manual, and Training Materials

**Memorandum Summary**

- F323 and F324 are combined to create F323.
- Revised guidance for long-term care surveyors regarding 42 C.F.R. §483.25(h)(1)and(2): Accidents and Supervision (Tag F323) will be effective August 6, 2007.

Revised surveyor guidance for surveying Accidents and Supervision (Tag F323) requirements in long-term care facilities will become effective on August 6, 2007. A final copy of this guidance is now available in [Appendix PP of the State Operations Manual](#). Also, we will discontinue the use of Tag F324 when surveying for compliance in the area of Accidents and Supervision.

The interpretive guidelines clarify areas such as resident supervision, hazard identification and resident risk, falls, unsafe wandering/elopement, environmental assessment of hazards, and resident-to-resident altercations. The investigative protocol explains objectives and procedures surveyors will need for their investigation. Deficiency categorization provides severity guidance for the determination of the correct level of severity of outcome to residents from deficiencies found at Tag F323.

Training materials are available from the contact person(s) listed at the end of this memo. We encourage training be conducted in person with group discussion to optimize learning. However, if this is not feasible to meet the needs of your surveyors, it is acceptable to use other methods.

Regional Office (RO) training coordinators must document the completion of training on this new guidance for all RO and State nursing home surveyors within their region.

For questions on this memorandum or to request the training materials, please contact Jeane Nitsch at 410-786-1411 or James Merrill at 410-786-6998 or via email at [Jeane.Nitsch@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Jeane.Nitsch@cms.hhs.gov) or [James.Merrill@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:James.Merrill@cms.hhs.gov)

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**Effective Date:** August 6, 2007. The State Agency should disseminate this information within 30 days of the date of this memorandum.

**Training:** The materials should be distributed immediately to all State Agencies and training coordinators.

/s/  
Thomas E. Hamilton

cc: Survey and Certification Regional Office Management