

DATE: November 18, 2002

DSL-BQA-02-021

TO: Nursing Homes

NH 10

FROM: Kevin Coughlin, Interim Chief, Resident Care Review Section
Bureau of Quality Assurance

via: Susan Schroeder, Director
Bureau of Quality Assurance

New Nursing Home Requirement Effective January 1, 2003

The purpose of this memo is to make you aware of a new federal requirement for nursing homes that becomes effective January 1, 2003. The enacting law and its requirements are found in the attached memo S&C 03-03 from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

Effective January 1, 2003, each nursing home must prominently display in the facility (1) the number of licensed staff (RNs and LPNs) and (2) the number of unlicensed staff (certified nursing assistants) who are caring for residents on that particular day on each shift. "Prominently display" means that the information is posted in a place where residents, family, staff and the public may readily view the information.

Beginning January 1, 2003, BQA surveyors will verify that the information is posted. BQA surveyors will not audit the accuracy of the information posted until we receive guidance from CMS.

If you have questions concerning this requirement, please contact the Regional Field Operations Director assigned to your region. Their names and phone numbers are listed below:

Joanne Powell
Regional Field Operations Director
Northern (Rhineland) Regional Office
(715) 365-2802

Patricia Benesh
Regional Field Operations Director
Southeastern (Milwaukee) Regional Office
(414) 227-4908

Juan Flores
Regional Field Operations Director
Southern (Madison) Regional Office
(608) 243-2374

Joe Bronner
Regional Field Operations Director
Western (Eau Claire) Regional Office
(715) 836-4753

Kevin Coughlin
Regional Field Operations Director
Northeastern (Green Bay) Regional Office
(920) 448-5249