STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES
Home and Community Living Administration
PO Box 45600, Olympia, Washington 98504-5600

August 14, 2025

NH #2025-039
QSO-23-10-NH EXPIRED ON 07/30/2025 - STRENGTHENED ENHANCED ENFORCEMENT FOR INFECTION CONTROL DEFICIENCIES

Dear Nursing Facility/Home Administrator:

This Dear Provider Letter (DPL) supersedes **DPL ALTSA NH #2023-040.**

This letter is to advise you of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) guidance that strengthened enforcement efforts for noncompliance with infection control deficiencies has expired.

In March 2023, CMS issued QSO-23-10-NH, revised guidance for Strengthened Enhanced Enforcement for Infection Control Deficiencies. This guidance strengthened enforcement efforts for noncompliance with infection control deficiencies. These enhanced enforcement actions were more stringent for infection control deficiencies that resulted in actual harm or immediate jeopardy to residents. In addition, the criteria for enhanced enforcement on infection control deficiencies that resulted in no resident harm had been expanded to include enforcement on noncompliance with Infection Prevention and Control (F880) combined with COVID-19 Vaccine Immunization Requirements for Residents and Staff (F887).

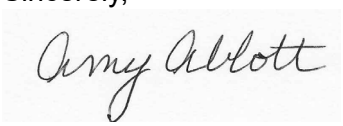
Effective **July 30, 2025**, State Agencies and nursing home (NH) providers will no longer follow the guidance issued in QSO-23-10-NH, as it has been expired by CMS.

Residential Care Services staff will still review citations of F880 cited at a scope and severity of G and above (H, I, J, K, L) for potential imposition of remedies.

Additional information on the requirements regarding **F880** and **F887** can be found in Appendix PP of the State Operations Manual (SOM), **F880** [42 CFR 483.80(a)(1) and 483.80(a)(2)(i) and 483.80(g)(1)(viii)-(ix)].

For questions or concerns relating to this expired memorandum, please contact DNH_Enforcement@cms.hhs.gov. or the Policy Unit at rcspolicy@dshs.wa.gov.

Sincerely,



Amy Abbott, Director
Residential Care Services

DSHS: *"Partnering with People"*

Related References: QSO-23-10-NH, WAC 388-97-1320, Infection Control F880 & F887, 42 CFR 483.80(a)(1), 42 CFR 483.80(a)(2)(i), & 42 CFR 483.80(g)(1)(viii)-(ix)