



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES
Aging and Long-Term Support Administration
PO Box 45600, Olympia, WA 98504-5600

July 27, 2015

AL TSA: NH #2015-027
S&C 15-47-NH: MEDICATION-RELATED ADVERSE EVENTS

Dear Nursing Facility/Home Administrator and/or Interested Parties:

Recently, the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) issued S&C 15-47-NH regarding medication-related adverse events in nursing homes.

In February 2014, the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) released its report, "Adverse Events in Skilled Nursing Facilities: National Incidence Among Medicare Beneficiaries." The OIG found that one in three skilled nursing facility (SNF) residents were harmed by an adverse event or temporary harm event within the first 35 days of a SNF stay and 37% of the adverse events were related to medication.

The CMS has developed and begun pilot-testing a Focused Survey on Medication Safety Systems to look at nursing home practice around high-risk and problem-prone medications, such as Coumadin. CMS collaborated with the Agency for Healthcare Research & Quality (AHRQ) and the OIG to develop a tool which includes probes to assist surveyors in investigating medication-related adverse events and identifying risk factors and triggers. This information will be used to evaluate if facilities have systems are in place to prevent medication-related adverse events.

You may find this tool useful as a risk management tool. The S&C letter and the tool can be viewed on the following link: <http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Provider-Enrollment-and-Certification/SurveyCertificationGenInfo/Policy-and-Memos-to-States-and-Regions-Items/Survey-and-Cert-Letter-15-47.html>.

The draft trigger tool will also be available on the CMS Nursing Home Quality Assurance and Performance Improvement (QAPI) website at <http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Provider-Enrollment-and-Certification/QAPI/NHQAPI.html>.

Thank you for your continued commitment to the health and safety of nursing home residents. If you have any questions, please contact your local RCS Field Manager.

Sincerely,

Kathy Morgan, Interim Director
Residential Care Services

"Transforming Lives"