



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

December 17, 2015

ALTSA: NH #2015-036
S&C 16-04-NH: FOCUSED DEMENTIA CARE SURVEY TOOLS

Dear Nursing Facility/Home Administrator:

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) completed a pilot project in 2014 to examine the process for prescribing antipsychotic medications and assess compliance with other federal requirements related to dementia care practices in nursing homes.

In 2015, CMS expanded the use of the Focused Dementia Care Survey in a few states and invited states to conduct such surveys on a voluntary basis, using the revised survey tools.

In response to feedback from stakeholders and partners of the *National Partnership to Improve Dementia Care in Nursing Homes*, CMS is sharing the revised survey materials. The intent is that facilities will use these tools to assess their own practices in providing resident care.

You can access the CMS tools via S&C 16-04-NH, online at <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Provider-Enrollment-and-Certification/SurveyCertificationGenInfo/Downloads/Survey-and-Cert-Letter-16-04.pdf> . The tools begin on page 3 of the linked document. Please feel free to utilize these tools as a part of any review process you may do. Surveyors will also be encouraged to use these tools as a part of the survey process.

As always, 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,

Candace Goehring, Director
Residential Care Services

"Transforming Lives"