



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

May 26, 2017

AL TSA: NH #2017-013
**S&C 17-26-NH NOTICE OF PROPOSED REGULATION CHANGES TO REQUIREMENTS
RELATED TO SURVEY TEAM COMPOSITION AND INVESTIGATION OF COMPLAINTS**

Dear Nursing Facility/Home Administrator:

On April 27, 2017, the Medicare Program; Prospective Payment System and Consolidated Billing for Skilled Nursing Facilities Proposed Rule for FY 2018, SNF Value-Based Purchasing Program, SNF Quality Reporting Program, Survey Team Composition, and Proposal to Correct the Performance Period for the NHSN HCP Influenza Vaccination Immunization Reporting Measure in the ESRD QIP for PY 2020 displayed on the Federal Register with the proposed rule publication date and opening for public comment on May 4, 2017. CMS has proposed four changes relevant to survey team composition within the regulation under 42 CFR sections 488.30, 488.301, 488.314, and 488.308, to clarify the regulatory requirements for the composition of complaint survey teams and to align regulatory provisions for complaint investigations with the statutory requirements. CMS encourages comments, questions, or thoughts on this proposed rule and the RFI (CMS-1679-P) and will accept comments until June 26, 2017. The proposed rule and the RFI can be downloaded from the Federal Register at: <https://www.federalregister.gov/public-inspection>.

Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM): The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) published a proposed regulation Medicare Program; FY 2018 Prospective Payment System and Consolidated Billing for Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNF) Proposed Rule which displayed on the Federal Register on April 27, 2017. **CMS Proposed Changes:** CMS proposed four changes to the Survey Team Composition within the NPRM which include revision of the definitions of "complaint survey" and "abbreviated standard survey," relocation of requirements related to complaint surveys, and revision of survey team composition requirements as outlined below.

Additional information and the S&C memo can be found at <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Provider-Enrollment-and-Certification/SurveyCertificationGenInfo/Downloads/Survey-and-Cert-Letter-17-26.pdf>

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"