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MEMORANDUM

May 1, 2002

To: Clients
From: Mary Chiles, RN
Re: Update



Food Sanitation – Regulatory Revisions – effective 3/1/02

The regulations governing restaurants [same regulations used to conduct kitchen/meal service inspections in nursing homes] were revised effective 3/1/02. Some of the changes include:

1. Change in definitions – Person in Charge [PIC]; requirement for PIC designation and knowledge requirement
2. Change in Definition -- Potentially Hazardous food definition was expanded to include seed sprouts and melons.
3. Requirement of employee [or applicant] to provide health information regarding recent or ongoing infectious enteric illnesses
4. Wearing of jewelry
5. Use of pasteurized eggs
6. Maintaining potentially hazardous food in cold holding at 41 degrees Fahrenheit
7. Dish machine data plate to include pressure and conveyer speed
8. Pressure gauge for final rinse required on high temperature dish machines
9. More emphasis on maintaining wash, rinse and sanitizing solutions clean
10. All gauges and thermometers must be in good repair and calibrated
11. Convenient hand wash sinks with required signage
12. Plans must be submitted to Health Department for construction, conversion, or remodel of food operation.

If you need a copy of the regulations, you may download the regulations at www.vdh.state.va.us/oehs/food/regs-tble.htm or send a check [\$2.00 per copy] to Valarie Shore, Virginia Department of Health, PO Box 2448, Room 115, Richmond, VA 23218.

DNR Regulations – effective 3/27/02

Summary: Adopted new legislation creating a Durable Do Not Resuscitate Order to replace the EMS Do Not Resuscitate Order. These regulations establish a process that enables qualified health care providers to respond more appropriately to the expressed desires and needs of certain patients. You may download a copy of the regulations at <http://www.townhall.state.va.us/index.cfm> or you may contact me and I will forward a copy to you.

Proposed Federal Regulations – Feeding Assistants

CMS has published *proposed* regulations that would provide States the flexibility to allow long term care facilities to use paid feeding assistants to supplement the services of CNAs. A copy of the proposed regulations may be found in the March 29, 2002 Federal Register, or you may contact me and I will be glad to send you a copy. While we see this as an opportunity to enhance the quality of life for many of your residents, there are organizations who are opposed to allowing non-nursing staff feed residents. Information on website of The American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees provides description of such opposition -- <http://www.afscme.org/>. ***It is important that you send your comments of support to CMS – comments [original plus 3 copies] will be accepted through May 28, 2002.***

Modified MDS for PPS Only Assessments

CMS has posted on their MDS website, information regarding use of a modified MDS assessment that the facility may use, effective July 2002, when completing a PPS only [assessment is not completed for any OBRA reason] assessment.

Documentation Tools

Each facility has an established set of forms that they use on a regular basis to assist in providing accurate documentation of resident care/need/services to code the MDS. I have recently revised my version of the **nursing monthly summary form** to be more consistent with MDS documentation and to minimize duplication of documentation found elsewhere in the clinical record. My **ADL or CNA charting tool** is easy to read and use and provides documentation that care and services were provided. The restorative nursing service documentation tools provides easy identification of the restorative task being completed, number of days/minutes provided, and review by the licensed nurse. A newly developed **daily SNF documentation tool has been developed and will also be a useful tool in providing focused documentation for the Medicaid residents in conjunction with the MDS assessments.** If you would like a copy of the new documentation tools please let me know; they will be provided to you in hard copy and on disk for a charge of 00.50 hours of your hourly rate for each form requested.

A new **pain assessment and flowsheet** is being developed and will be available in conjunction with a policy and training materials. Let me know your interest.