

FYI – Update – May 2008



Aim For Success

Drug Recalls

The FDA has issued recalls for medications (e.g., heparin, digoxin, fentanyl patches) that have the potential for serious adverse reactions in patients/residents. The FDA Web site for recalls is located at: <http://www.fda.gov/opacom/7alerts.HTML> **Please check with your providing pharmacy.**

State survey agencies should remain diligent in achieving their federal survey & certification obligations through strategies that will not adversely affect completion of Tier 1 and 2 workloads.

These actions should include:

- Distributing a list of recalled heparin drugs to surveyors of facilities that typically use anti-coagulants
- Include a check of the possible presence of these recalled drugs during the course of scheduled surveys,
- Request a copy of any written procedures for implementing drug recalls:
- Request a description of staff notification and education efforts used to ensure that recalled heparin is not used for patient care.

If you need a sample policy & procedure for managing recalls, please contact us.

Activity Professional Training – Donna Duss RN MSN with CHC will one of the presenters

“Introduction to Activity Management” is a five-day, 45-hour course sponsored solely by the Virginia Health Care Association to be held June 23 - 27. The course will provide comprehensive training in **Documentation and Programming** and is designed to specifically prepare activity personnel to work in settings primarily serving persons 55 years and older. These settings may include nursing facilities, assisted living facilities, sub-acute, specialized care, or adult day services. The course meets all federal and state requirements for Virginia activity professionals. It has been approved by the Division of Licensing Programs of the Virginia Department of Social Services as a training program in adult group activities and in recognizing and assessing the activity needs of residents and meets regulatory requirements of the *Standards and Regulations for Licensed Assisted Living Facilities*.

In response to several requests this 45-hour course is in the National Certification Council for Activity Professionals (NCCAP) approved format in order to assist participants who wish to pursue their national activity credential. Participants who attend the entire program will receive credit towards the NCCAP Modular Education Program for Activity Professionals (MEPAP) course. Contact Doran Hutchinson at doran.hutchinson@vhca.org or at 804.212.1692 for more information.

Medical Records Law in Virginia – July 15, 2008 presentation by Nancy Newman RN JD in collaboration with Lorman Education. www.lorman.com

- Learn about residents’ rights to access and amend their medication information
- Find out what you must know about discovery rules and HIPAA; Resolve conflicts between HIPAA rules and state law
- Disclose medical records information when required
- Know how to respond to subpoenas and other requests for medical records.
- Nancy will be talking about documentation & professional standards including practical guidelines to achieve quality documentation.

Thank You

Donna Duss wishes to express her heartfelt thanks and gratitude for the many thoughts, prayers and acts of kindness during her recent illness. Donna is now back at work and doing well.

Survey Focus

From a general perspective, it appears that many surveys are being conducted early in the window rather than later [although there are some significant exceptions to this].

- According to the 2008 VHCA SMART program data base [36 surveys so far], tag F-514 [medical records] has been cited in 42% of the surveys. Primary reasons for citation include: inaccuracy/inconsistency within the record, omissions, transcription errors, labs not in the record and inaccurate documentation of ADLs.
- If you wish to have a mock survey between now and the early fall, now is the time to schedule. Give us a call.

