

Center for Medicaid and State Operations/Survey and Certification Group

Ref: S&C-06-19

DATE: May 26, 2006

TO: State Survey Agency Directors

FROM: Director
Survey and Certification Group

SUBJECT: **Nursing Homes** - Issuance of New Tag F356, Appendix PP, State Operations Manual (SOM), Survey Protocol for Long Term Care Facilities Regarding Posting of Staffing Information. This letter replaces our previous guidance to use Tag F492 for this issue.

Letter Summary

- New Tag F356 has been developed for use in citing noncompliance regarding posting of nurse staffing information in lieu of Tag F492.
- Tag F356 is effective immediately upon its availability after the ASPEN release in June.
- Tag F492 remains for other issues involving compliance with Federal, State, and local laws; however, previous direction (S&C-03-11) to cite deficiencies in posting at Tag F492 is rescinded.

The purpose of this memorandum is to advise you that we are implementing a new regulatory tag, F356, for citation of deficiencies regarding the posting of nurse staffing information as contained in regulation at 42 C.F.R. §483.30(e). The change will be issued in June as part of the general changes that are already planned to Appendix PP that will introduce Paid Feeding Assistant and Immunization regulatory language and to make other technical corrections. This letter only rescinds use of the particular deficiency tag, F492, described in S&C-03-11 to cite deficiencies in nurse staffing posting for compliance with Federal, State, and local laws. Tag F492 remains for other issues involving compliance with Federal, State, and local laws. **New Tag F356 will be added to Aspen for the June 2006 release.**

For questions on this memorandum, please contact Linda O'Hara at 410-786-8347 or via email at Linda.Ohara@cms.hhs.gov).

Effective Date: Immediately upon its availability after the ASPEN release in June 2006.

Training: This information should be distributed immediately to all State Agencies and training coordinators.

/s/

Thomas E. Hamilton

cc: Survey and Certification Regional Office Management (G-5)