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The Healthcare Bulletin

Delay in the May 1 Effective Date of the RAI Manual Revision

CMS has posted the following message: "Due to ongoing efforts, the May 2005 revisions to the December 2002 RAI Manual, Version 2.0 will be delayed. CMS anticipates a new posting on May 23, 2005 with an effective date of June 15, 2005." We apologize for any inconvenience this delay has caused." Provider should check the MDS website at www.cms.hhs.gov/quality/mds20/. (Source: Catharine B. Peko, RN NurseConsultant, Myersand Stauffer LC)

MDS Section W

CMS has announced that Section W of the MDS will start in October 2005. The data specs for Section W, which adds 5 items to the MDS related to vaccines, can be found at www.cms.hhs.gov/Medicaid/mds20/mdssoftw.asp#qies1005.

CMS Requirement for Computer Upgrades

CMS is scheduled to transition to new reporting software in January 2006. The Director of the Survey and Certification Group issued a memo to State Survey Directors on March 10, 2005 stating that providers must comply with minimum system requirements by December 31, 2005. If nursing homes do not comply, they will not be able to access the upgraded QI/OBQI and the error and submission requirements. To view the minimum pc requirements, see S&C-05-22.

MDS 3.0 Update

CMS has posted a 10-page summary on the status of the MDS 3.0. The information can be accessed at: www.cms.hhs.gov/quality/mds30/ or www.cms.hhs.gov/quality/mds30/MDS30Update.pdf.

DAVE Reviews

CMS has announced that the Data Assessment and Verification (DAVE) project will end April 30, 2005 due to lack of funding.

SNF Documentation Tip

Documentation must show the current status of the beneficiary, including a description of the

services performed, beneficiary's response to services, and the stability/instability of the beneficiary.

Blood Glucose Monitoring in SNFs

The following information is from a recent Mutual of Omaha training session:

"Routine glucose monitoring of diabetics is never covered in a SNF, whether or not the beneficiary is in a covered Part A stay. Glucose monitoring may only be covered when it meets all the conditions of a covered laboratory service, including use by the physician in modifying the patient's treatment."

- **Note:** Blood glucose monitoring is covered in a Part A stay; however, it is not a separately billable service.

Source: *Claims processing Manual, Pub. 100-4, Chapter 7, Section 90.1*

CMS SNF/Long-Term Care Open Door Forum

The next SNF/Long-Term Care Open Door Forum is scheduled for April 27 at 2 p.m. To participate by phone, dial 1-800-837-1935. Reference Conference ID 2865533.

Restorative Nursing

MDS Section P3 is important for case-mix payment. This section affects the Rehabilitation Low and all the non-skilled RUG-III groups. In order to code P3, a restorative program must meet all guidelines in the Resident Assessment Instrument Manual. For more information, order the *Nursing Rehabilitation Restorative Care Manual* from the mjcpa.com website or call Ed Roberts at 1-800-277-0080. Price \$99.

Medicare Participation

Please call Darlene Greenhill at 770-541-5429 for consultation, teaching, and training.

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