

Long-Term Care Survey Alert

Abuse Prevention: SURVEYORS GET MARCHING ORDERS ON ABUSE REPORTING

Expect state survey agencies to do a better job reporting resident abuse to law enforcement and Medicaid Fraud Control Units, if they follow a strongly worded directive from the **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services**.

In a March 28 letter to state survey agencies and CMS regional administrators, CMS Survey and Certification Group Director **Steven Pelovitz** clarifies agency policies on abuse and lays out the time frames within which states must process allegations of misconduct.

The missive comes in the wake of a March 4 Senate hearing that highlighted horrific instances of nursing home abuse and a **General Accounting Office** report stressing that abuse allegations too often go unreported.

The letter stresses that, if a survey agency validates a finding of abuse, it "must report the substantiated findings to law enforcement and, if appropriate, the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit."