

## Long-Term Care Survey Alert

### Medicare: Check Out The Hospital Never Events Going Into Effect Oct. 1

CMS is also encouraging state Medicaid programs to adopt these.

Medicare won't pay the extra costs for these hospital-acquired conditions for patient discharges on or after Oct. 1, 2008:

- Stage 3 and 4 pressure ulcers;
- Falls and trauma;
- Surgical site infection after bariatric surgery for obesity, certain orthopedic procedures, and bypass surgery (mediastinitis);
- Vascular-catheter associated infection;
- Catheter-associated urinary tract infection;
- Administration of incompatible blood;
- Air embolism;
- Foreign object unintentionally retained after surgery;
- Deep vein thromboses and pulmonary emboli associated with knee and hip replacement;
- Certain manifestations of poor glycemic control.

The bottom line: "Medicare will no longer pay the higher MS-DRGs arising from these selected conditions if they arose in the course of an admission," states the **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services** in a recent letter to state Medicaid directors encouraging them to coordinate state Medicaid payment policies with Medicare's no-pay policy for never events.