

Long-Term Care Survey Alert

SPECIAL FOCUS: IMMEDIATE JEOPARDY CITATIONS: 2 Scenarios Can Land You With An IJ Tag When Using Paid Feeding Assistants

Forewarned means you can be on guard to prevent problems.

Paid feeding assistants can help improve residents' nutrition and quality of life. But beware these two types of situations that the **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services** says surveyors might consider to be immediate jeopardy:

- A paid feeding assistant is improperly assisting a resident who meets the criteria for the program (that is, he doesn't have swallowing issues or other complicated feeding problems). The resident chokes. And the facility has no call system readily available ...quot; and/or the supervising nurse was not available to assist, and the resident dies.
- A paid feeding assistant is assisting a resident who is NOT eligible to receive the services due to complicated feeding problems whether or not the resident has experienced negative outcomes.

Lessons learned: Make sure feeding assistants know how to quickly summon the supervising licensed nurse when they are helping residents with snacks or meals. And document your assessments to show residents meet the criteria for the program. Also identify residents in real time who no longer meet that criteria (e.g., they have a choking episode or a change in needs requiring more expert assistance with eating).