

Long-Term Care Survey Alert

Survey & Clinical News

The **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services** is soliciting input for its Nursing Home Pay for Performance initiative. At press time, the agency had scheduled a special open door forum on Sept. 20 asking nursing home providers to share their ideas related to quality and payment incentives in the nursing home setting. The agenda called for **Abt Associates** of Cambridge, MA to present recommendations for a draft design of the P4P project.

Watch a slideshow of Abt's demonstration design posted on the demonstration Website (www.cms.hhs.gov/researchers/demos).

The MDS 3.0 continues to wend its way toward an eventual debut, but not anytime soon. CMS is "presently getting ready to go out into the field [with the instrument] in early 2006," reported CMS' **Robert Connolly** at a recent SNF/Long-Term Care open door forum (ODF). CMS has been doing research on the MDS 3.0's new items in partnership with the **Department of Veterans Affairs** and expects to have the research results in November, Connolly said.

Next on the agenda: CMS plans to conduct a pilot in March or April that will roll out to national testing for the MDS 3.0 in eight states shortly thereafter. CMS is only committed to go through validation and reliability testing with results in 2007 but it has not decided on an implementation date for the MDS 3.0, said Connolly.

Heads up if your facility provides alcohol-free mouthwash for residents. **Medline Industries** has initiated a voluntary recall of Personal Hygiene Admission kits containing alcohol-free mouthwash due to potential contamination with *Burkholderia cepacia* (*B. cepacia*).

B. cepacia usually doesn't cause symptoms in healthy people, but it has been known to cause serious respiratory infection in people with weakened immune systems or chronic lung disease. The bacteria is often resistant to common antibiotics. For a complete list of admission kits involved in the recall, go to www.medline.com or call Medline Industries at 1-800-MEDLINE.