

## Long-Term Care Survey Alert

### SURVEY & CLINICAL NEWS

**Will DAVE 2 be likely to report you for potential survey violations?** DAVE will report indication of fraud or "very severe quality problems," said the **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' Sheila Lambowitz** in a presentation at the March **American Association of Nurse Assessment Coordinators** conference in Las Vegas. "But in general, the DAVE on-site reviews aren't intended to be punitive," Lambowitz emphasized. DAVE reviewers will do on-site reviews looking at MDS accuracy starting in April, visiting 30 facilities quarterly around the nation.

**Mark your calendars: On March 13, several fire safety requirements go into effect.** The requirements include 1) replacing batteries used in emergency lighting, where required, to provide illumination for a minimum of 90 minutes; and 2) replacing roller latches commonly found in corridor doors with a positive latching device. In directions to state survey agencies and state fire authorities, CMS says that for surveys completed after March 13, deficiencies related to the installation of 90-minute duration batteries used in emergency lighting should be cited at Tag K-46, which deals with emergency lighting requirements. Facilities that haven't replaced roller latches with a positive latching device will be looking at a citation at Tag K18, which includes requirements for corridor doors and latching requirements. "Deficiencies cited at either of these tags shall have a Scope/Severity level of D, E, or F depending on how widespread the deficiency is," according to a CMS survey and cert memo (S&C-06-08).

**Does tube feeding prevent aspiration pneumonia?** Not according to a retrospective analysis by **Kaiser Permanente** (Fontana, CA) reported in a poster session at the **American Medical Directors Association's** annual meeting in Dallas March 16-19. The study shows that tube feeding does not help in preventing pneumonia, especially aspiration pneumonia. "The data could be extrapolated to show that patients who are on tube feedings will end up more in the hospital/emergency room," which affects their quality of life, according to the poster presentation.