

Long-Term Care Survey Alert

Survey & Clinical News To Use

Don't mount those alcohol-based hand rubs in corridors yet. Although the **National Fire Protection Agency** recently amended its Life Safety Code 2000 edition to allow the dispensers, surveyors are being advised to cite facilities for related deficiencies until the **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services** formally adopts the hand rub dispenser amendment through a formal rulemaking process, according to information presented at the June 2004 SNF Open Door Forum. In the meantime, address any related questions on the issue to jsimmons1@cms.hhs.gov

Cognitive rehab may stave off mental decline in people with early AD. A study supported by the **National Institute on Aging** (NIA) found that "cognitive rehabilitation" gave people with this mind-stealing disease an edge over those who did not receive the therapy. The study -- reported in the July-August issue of the American Journal of Geriatric Psychiatry --- found that people with early AD who attended 45-minute sessions twice a week for 12 weeks had a 170 percent, on average, improvement in their ability to recall faces and names -- and a 71 percent improvement in their ability to tender the correct change for a purchase. The cognitive rehab sessions focused on helping participants improve their attention span and cognitive processing skills, and associate a person's name with his/her facial characteristics. Participants also practiced calculating change for a purchase -- and using a calculator to balance a checkbook after three purchases.

Is your facility using these dangerous mechanical lifts? If your long-term care facility uses Faaborg-brand patient lifts, beware: Federal authorities are seeking to halt the distribution of the devices, warning they can break and pose a serious risk to patients. About 850 of the mechanical sling-like devices have been distributed to nursing homes, hospitals and private homes throughout the United States. According to the lawsuit and reports received by the FDA, one patient has died and another was seriously injured when a bolt that supports the hanger bar and the sling broke, dropping the patient. n