

Long-Term Care Survey Alert

SURVEY COMPLIANCE: 3 Ways To Ensure Medical Director Compliance With Revised F501 Survey Guidance

Define and enforce expectations and make participation easy.

This three-prong approach can go a long way toward heading off F501 tags under the revised survey guidance.

- **Review the medical director's job description and contract.** Base the expectations on your facility's case-mix and particular needs. "If you have a really smooth-running building, the medical director doesn't need to be on the premises as much as if you have one with high acuity and frequent nurse turnover and transfer issues," says **Kathy Hurst, RN, JD**.

Resource: See "Model Agreement for Professional Services; Medical Director of a Nursing Facility," published by the **American Medical Directors Association**, available at www.amda.com.

- **Make it easy for the medical director to participate.** For example, facilities can allow medical directors to attend mandatory monthly QA meetings via teleconferencing, says Hurst. And more medical directors are using e-mail to communicate with facilities, which can be positive as long as the facility has its HIPAA security provisions in place, says **Annaliese Impink**, vice president and associate general counsel for Atlanta-based **SavaSenior Care Administrative Services LLC**.

- **Develop formats to ensure medical director compliance.** To achieve that goal, SavaSenior Care has revised its medical director invoice. "For the medical director to be paid, he or she has to identify the [role-related] activities completed that month," says Impink. "And we have watchdogs in the accounting department who pay attention to whether the medical director completed the form, etc.," she adds.