

## Long-Term Care Survey Alert

### Survey Hot Tip: If Your Facility Uses Feeding Assistants, Make Sure You Don't Do This

Avoid this recipe for IJ.

Feeding assistants can improve a resident's nutritional status and quality of life. But make sure to screen residents carefully before assigning them a feeding assistant.

Survey consultant **Diana Waugh, RN, BSN**, is seeing IJ citations in Ohio where feeding assistants are feeding residents who have a history of choking episodes documented in their clinical records. **What the F373 surveyor guidance says:** Feeding assistants can only feed residents who don't have complicated feeding problems, which include difficulty swallowing, recurrent lung aspiration, and tube or parenteral/IV feedings.

Avoid this temptation: "Facilities are shying away from using feeding assistants due to fear of IJ citations," says Waugh, principal of **Waugh Consulting** in Waterville, Ohio. But if facilities follow the rules, they won't end up with problems, she adds.