

Long-Term Care Survey Alert

Survey Tip: Act Now To Protect Yourself Later

Your QAC may stave off a tag for deficiencies you've fixed.

In some cases, the best defense just might be a good quality assurance offense -- one shared with surveyors.

"Some facilities have a policy where they disclose their QA materials to surveyors to show they are aware of and correcting problems," says attorney **Kendall Watkins** in Des Moines, IA. "There's some support in the State Operations Manual, in fact, for a facility being able to avoid a citation for a past deficiency that was corrected through its QA process before the survey, as long as the deficiency or incident wasn't egregious," he says.

What Do You Think?

Should a facility that's doing bad quality assurance -- for example, not implementing its corrective actions or allowing the same problem to recur time after time -- be required to turn over its QA materials to surveyors?

See the answer in the next Long-Term Care Survey Alert.