

## MDS Alert

### Medicare Compliance: Get The Dates And Signatures Straight

**Follow these 3 tips.**

When obtaining physician certs/recerts, make sure:

1. The physician dates the forms or notation in the chart certifying/recertifying care. "The physician should date the certs/recerts based on the date he/she signs it," advises **Lee Heinbaugh**, comptroller for **PMGO Inc.** in Cleveland, OH. If the certs/recerts are not dated, many FIs will not consider them to be valid, cautions **Jan Zacny, RN**, a consultant with **BKD Inc.** in Springfield, MO.
2. Don't sign the physician cert form for the physician, instructs **Betsy Anderson**, a consultant with **FR&R Healthcare Consulting** in Deerfield, IL.
3. Never backdate the form. "That would be considered fraudulent," cautions **Cindy MacQuarrie, MN, RN**, also with **BKD Inc.**