

Center for Medicaid and State Operations/Survey & Certification Group

Ref: S&C-10-15-NH

DATE: April 16, 2010
TO: State Survey Agency Directors
FROM: Director
Survey and Certification Group
SUBJECT: Change to the 5 Star Monthly Provider Preview

Memorandum Summary

Provider Preview Changes: Beginning on April 16, 2010 nursing homes that are Special Focus Facility (SFF) candidates will receive notification of that fact on the monthly provider preview that they receive on the CASPER reporting page.

Since January 2009, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has provided to every participating nursing home a preview of its 5 star ratings. Beginning with previews posted in April 2010, we are notifying the 15 lowest-scoring nursing homes (i.e., with a rank of 1-15) in each State (with the exception of Alaska and the District of Columbia) that these nursing homes are candidates for the SFF program. Please note that we are notifying the nursing homes individually. We are not currently planning to distribute the list publicly.

Below is the language used in the provider preview report that SFF candidates will receive. Nursing Homes that are not SFF candidates will continue to receive the provider preview report that they have previously received.

Nursing Home Compare will be updated on Thursday April 22. Providers will receive provider preview reports beginning April 16. The toll-free hotline will be open from April 14 to April 29. The number of the hotline is 800-839-9290.

Language included in Provider Preview Reports for the top 15:

IMPORTANT MESSAGE: Your health inspection score currently makes you a candidate for the Special Focus Facility Program. Please note that this does not necessarily mean that your nursing home will be selected for the Special Focus Facility program. For more information about the program, please go to:

http://www.cms.hhs.gov/CertificationandCompliance/12_NHs.asp

/s/
Thomas E. Hamilton

cc: Survey and Certification Regional Office Management