



**Center for Clinical Standards and Quality/Survey & Certification Group**

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**Ref: S&C: 16-42-NH**

**DATE:** September 30, 2016

**TO:** State Survey Agency Directors

**FROM:** Director  
Survey and Certification Group

**SUBJECT:** Notification of Final Rule Published- Reform of Requirements for Long-Term Care (LTC) Facilities

**Memorandum Summary**

- **Reform of LTC Requirements:** On September 28, 2016 the Federal Register posted the notice of the final rule *Reform of Requirements for Long-Term Care Facilities*. The scheduled publication date is October 4, 2016. The regulation goes into effect on November 28, 2016.
- LTC providers affected by this rule must comply and implement this regulations based on staggered effective dates, which is outlined in the final rule. Additional information will be provided in further guidance through release of the interpretive guidelines and future Survey & Certification policy memorandums.

**Background**

The published final rule revises the requirements that LTC facilities must meet to participate in the Medicare and Medicaid programs. The revisions to the requirements reflect substantial advances which have been made in the practice of service, quality of health care and patient safety over the last several years. The Final Rule can be located at <https://www.federalregister.gov/public-inspection/current#special-filing-centers-for-medicare-medicare-services>.

We would like to highlight for all stakeholders that the implementation dates are staggered within this regulation. The Survey and Certification Group will be providing additional information regarding the interpretive guidance, survey process and training opportunities at a later date.

**Contact:** For questions regarding implementation of the rule please contact [NHSurveyDevelopment@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:NHSurveyDevelopment@cms.hhs.gov).

**Effective Date:** Immediately. The information provided in this memorandum should be communicated with all survey and certification staff, their managers and the State/Regional Office training coordinators within 30 days of this memorandum.

/s/

David R. Wright

cc: Survey and Certification Regional Office Management