

PROVIDER BULLETIN NO. 10-42

Date: September 2, 2010

TO: Medicaid Providers of Nursing Facility Services

FROM: Vivianne M. Chaumont, Director
Division of Medicaid & Long-Term Care

BY: Sarah Briggs, Manager
State Unit on Aging

RE: **Local Contact Agency Referral Process for Nursing Facilities (MDS 3.0 Section Q)**

Beginning October 1, 2010, the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) will require that nursing facilities begin using the new version (3.0) of the Minimum Data Set (MDS) for their resident assessments. Federal revisions to Section Q of the MDS 3.0 require that facilities ask the resident if they are interested in returning to the community and if the resident would like to speak to someone about this possibility. CMS has also instructed State Medicaid Agencies to identify a contact for nursing facilities to communicate with when making resident referrals.

Effective October 1, 2010, Nebraska's new Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) is the designated single statewide entity for receipt of MDS Section Q resident referrals. Nursing facilities will be able to make these referrals electronically using a web-based form via the ADRC webpage. The ADRC will provide the referring facility with an electronic confirmation that the referral has been accepted and will be transmitted to an identified local agency. The local agencies are the Area Agencies on Aging and the Centers for Independent Living. The referral shall be forwarded to the agency associated with the resident's geographic location. A representative from the local agency will make contact with the resident to provide information on community

services. If the resident wishes to proceed with a transition to the community, the local agency will work with the resident, his/her support person(s) and facility staff to discuss options and develop a transition plan, when appropriate.

In preparation for the implementation, beginning September 10 nursing facilities should visit the website <http://nrrs.ne.gov/mds> and follow the step by step process to establish an account and password. Facility staff should continue to visit this site for updates, additional information, technical support and responses to Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ).

If you have questions or concerns regarding the ADRC or this Memo, please contact Julie Horne, ADRC Program Coordinator, at 402-472-9781 or jhorne@answers4families.org.