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OIG Issues Report on Trends in Nursing Home Deficiencies and Complaints

On September 29, 2008, the Office of Inspector General ("OIG") issued its Memorandum Report on Trends in Nursing Home Deficiencies and Complaints ("Report"). The OIG examined the frequency of deficiencies in all states and the frequency of deficiencies per deficiency category. The OIG has assembled this information as a part of its effort to address the quality of care in all nursing facilities.

In 2005, 2006, and 2007, 91% of all nursing facilities surveyed were cited for at least one (1) deficiency. The average number of deficiencies per survey increased from 6.4 in 2005 to 7.0 in 2007. Rhode Island facilities were cited the least at 76% while 100% of all facilities surveyed in the District of Columbia, Idaho, and Wyoming were cited for deficiencies. The three (3) most frequently cited deficiency categories were Quality of Care, Resident Assessment, and Quality of Life. Quality of Care deficiencies were cited in 73.6% of all facilities receiving at least one (1) citation in 2007, a 3.1% increase from 2005. Pharmacy services deficiencies increased 5%, from 23.8% in 2005 to 28.8% in 2007, the greatest increase for all deficiency categories.

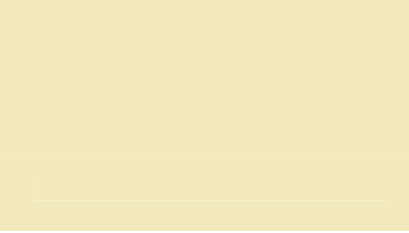
94% of for-profit nursing facilities were cited for deficiencies in 2007 while 88% of not-for-profit nursing facilities received deficiencies. The average number of deficiencies cited at for-profit nursing facilities increased from 7.0 in 2005 to 7.6 in 2007 (a 9.8% increase) while the average number of deficiencies cited for not-for-profit facilities increased from 5.1 to 5.7 (a 13.1% increase).

The number of complaints and substantiated complaints showed little change from 2005 to 2007. The total number of complaints for all facilities decreased from 38,147 to 37,153 and the total number of substantiated complaints decreased from 14,781 to 14,394.

A copy of the OIG's completed memorandum is available at:

<http://www.oig.hhs.gov/oei/reports/oei-02-08-00140.pdf>

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact your local counsel or Todd J. Selby or Brian D. Jent at Hall, Render, Killian, Heath & Lyman, P.C. at (317) 633-4884.



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