

MEMORANDUM

Texas Department of Human Services * Long Term Care/Policy

TO: LTC-R Regional Directors
Home and Community Support Services Agencies (HCSSA) Program Administrators

FROM: Marc Gold
Section Manager
Long Term Care-Policy
State Office MC: W-519

SUBJECT: Regional Survey & Certification Letter #00-09

DATE: May 15, 2000

The attached RS&C Letter is being provided to you for information purposes and should be shared with all professional staff.

- RS&C Letter No. 00 - 09 -- Special Focus Facility (SFF) Reports; Call Mark Jeffers, Field Operations, at (512) 438-2626

If you have any questions, please direct inquiries to the individuals or sections listed above.

~Original Signature on File~

Marc Gold

Attachment

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
Health Care Financing Administration
Division of Medicaid and State Operations, Region VI

1301 Young Street, Room 833
Dallas, Texas 75202
Phone (214) 767-6301
Fax (214) 767-0270

April 18 , 2000

REGIONAL SURVEY AND CERTIFICATION LETTER NO: 00-09

To: All State Survey Agencies - Action

Subject: Special Focus Facility (SFF) Reports

THIS IS A FOLLOW-UP TO THE RS&C LETTER DATED DECEMBER 20, 1999

As you are aware, the purpose of the Special Focus Facility (SFF) project is to (1) identify those facilities whose performance is consistently and significantly below Federal standards and (2) 'monitor' the progress of the specified facilities' efforts to come into compliance through detailed monthly reports to the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA) outlining all of the Survey Agency's (SA) survey activities, complaint reports and administrative changes.

While these reports give HCFA a working knowledge of the enforcement actions the States are recommending, we need a clearer understanding of the actual effects of the imposition of remedies on the facilities. To better understand the effects of the imposition of remedies on poor performing facilities, HCFA is asking the SAs to:

- **provide detailed information regarding all recommendations for enforcement;**
- **make sure that the reports are received in the Regional Office (RO) in a timely manner [the 10th, no later than the 15th of each month. (please refer to the December 20th letter)];**
- **continue to use the form attached to the December 20th letter for monthly reporting. If you need a copy of this form or would like to receive the form electronically, please e-mail your request to me at: jthomas3@hcfa.gov.**

Finally, be advised that as these facilities reach compliance, they will be removed from the SFF list and replaced with others under the following condition: **after two consecutive standard surveys, the facility is found to be in substantial compliance and does not have a complaint investigation resulting in deficiencies greater than a "C" in scope and severity.**

Since SFFs are selected because of continued poor performance, they are held to a higher standard of compliance. HCFA Central Office will generate an annual list from which the SA will choose a new SFF with RO approval, immediately after the removal of a SFF through termination, termination of the Medicare/Medicaid provider agreement or through attaining substantial compliance.

I recognize and appreciate the efforts made thus far in getting monthly SFF reports to me; however, with our ever increasing workloads, it is extremely important that these reports are received in the RO within the time lines outlined above. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

~Signature on File~

Judy Thomas
Health Insurance Specialist