

COMMUNITY NURSING HOME EVALUATION AND FOLLOW-UP SERVICES

- 1. REASON FOR ISSUE:** This Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Directive provides general instructions for initial and annual reviews, and ongoing monitoring and follow-up services for nursing homes participating in Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) community nursing home (CNH) care through both regional and local contracts. Specific program instructions are found in VHA Handbook 1143.1.
- 2. SUMMARY OF MAJOR CHANGES:** This is a new directive and incorporates policy changes for the evaluation and monitoring of veterans in CNHs.
- 3. RELATED ISSUE:** VHA Handbook 1143.1.
- 4. RESPONSIBLE OFFICE:** Chief Consultant, Geriatrics and Extended Care Strategic Healthcare Group (114), is responsible for the contents of this VHA Directive.
- 5. RESCISSIONS:** M-5, Part II, Chapter 3, Section 3.03b-3.08, and Section 3.10 and M-1, Part1, Chapter 12, Sections 12.24 -12.27, and 12.34 are rescinded.
- 6. RECERTIFICATION:** This document is scheduled for recertification on or before the last working day of June 2007.

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Under Secretary for Health

DISTRIBUTION: CO: E-mailed 6/25/2002
FLD: VISN, MA, DO, OC, OCRO, and 200 – E-mailed 6/25/2002

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1. PURPOSE: This Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Directive provides general instructions for initial and annual reviews, and ongoing monitoring and follow-up services for nursing homes participating in Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) community nursing home (CNH) care through both regional and local contracts. *NOTE: Specific program instructions are found in VHA Handbook 1143.1.*

2. POLICY: It is VHA policy that each VA Health Care Facility (VAHCF) must have a CNH Review Team that is responsible for the initial evaluation and annual review of all nursing homes under the local contract program. *NOTE: At a minimum, the review team is comprised of a social worker, registered nurse, and fire safety officer; other appropriate clinical, technical, and administrative staff is added to the team, as indicated.*

3. ACTION

a. **CNH Review Team.** For local contracts, the CNH Review Team is responsible for performing the necessary evaluations of nursing homes prior to the contract, on an annual basis, and when indicated by specific circumstances. These evaluations are document-based, using Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and VAHCF data, unless otherwise noted or authorized.

b. **Geriatrics and Extended Care Strategic Healthcare Group (GEC SHG).** GEC SHG is responsible for:

(1) Conducting the initial evaluation and annual reviews of all nursing homes under the regional contract program (R-CNH). *NOTE: VAHCFs must notify GEC SHG of any problems identified during ongoing patient monitoring.*

(2) Providing the office of the Under Secretary for Health with a semi-annual report and recommended actions on VAHCF's compliance with the CNH standards for annual reviews and monthly monitoring visits.

(3) Using the available data systems from the CMS including On-line Survey, Certification and Retrieval (OSCAR) reports, and the Quality Indicator Profiles to collect data and sharing this data with the Veterans Integrated Services Networks.

c. **CNH.** The CNH is responsible for:

(1) The development and implementation of an appropriate plan of care for each nursing home patient. *NOTE: Ongoing monitoring and follow-up services for veterans in both the regional and local contract programs is provided by VAHCF staff to monitor and evaluate their care in nursing homes.*

(2) Ensuring nursing homes meet the full Medicare/Medicaid nursing service standard found in Title 42 Code of Federal regulations (CFR) Section 483.30, without waiver or exception.

(3) Meeting the most current edition of the Life Safety Code (LSC) for local contracts.

4. REFERENCES

- a. Public Law 99-272, The Veterans Health Care Amendment of 1986.
- b. Title 42 CFR Part 483, subpart B (1999).
- c. M-1, Part I, Chapter 12, Nursing Home Care (September 11, 1991).
- d. M-5, Part II, Chapter 3, Community Nursing Home (March 28, 1995).
- e. VHA Handbook 1050.1, National Patient Safety Improvement Program (January 28, 2001).