



Center for Medicaid and State Operations/Survey and Certification Group

Ref: S&C-07-01

DATE: November 1, 2006

TO: State Survey Agency Directors
State Fire Authorities

FROM: Director
Survey and Certification Group

SUBJECT: Provisions of the Final Rule regarding Adoption of New Fire Safety Requirements for the Use of Alcohol Based Hand Rubs (ABHRs) and Installation of Battery Powered Smoke Alarms

Letter Summary

This letter highlights the final rule concerning fire safety requirements for Hospitals, Ambulatory Surgical Centers, Nursing Homes, Religious Non-Medical Health Care Institutions, Programs of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) Facilities, Critical Access Hospitals, and Intermediate Care Facilities for the Mentally Retarded.

Regarding ABHRs, the final rule clarifies terminology and adds a requirement for maintenance in accordance with manufacturer's recommendations.

Regarding battery powered smoke alarms, the final rule changed terminology and defined the terms "common areas" and "fully sprinklered." The maintenance requirements were modified to include manufacturer's recommendations.

This memorandum notifies States and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' (CMS) regional offices of the September 22, 2006 publication of the final rule entitled: "*Medicare and Medicaid Programs; Fire Safety Requirements for certain Health Care Facilities; Amendment*" (*Federal Register* Vol. 70, No. 184, Page 55326). A copy of the regulation is attached to this memorandum.

Previously, CMS provided guidance concerning the use of ABHRs and smoke alarms in two Survey and Certification letters (S&C-05-25 and S&C-05-33) which described the requirements of the interim final rule published on March 25, 2005.