



COMMISSIONER
Adelaide Horn

November 9, 2006

To: Long-Term Care Facilities, Intermediate Care Facilities for Persons with Mental Retardation or a Related Condition (ICF-MR/RC), Hospices (that provide inpatient care directly), Hospitals, Religious Nonmedical Health Care Institutions (RNHCI), Ambulatory Surgical Centers (ASC), Programs of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE), and Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs)

Subject: **Provider Letter #06-39** – Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Final Rule Regarding Alcohol-Based Hand Rub Solutions (ABHR) and Smoke Alarm Installations

The purpose of letter is to notify providers of the publication on Friday, September 22, 2006 in the **Federal Register** (Vol. 71, No. 184, Page 55326) of the final rule entitled: ["Medicare and Medicaid Programs: Fire Safety Requirements for Certain Health Care Facilities; Amendment."](#) This final rule adopts the substance of the April 15, 2004 temporary interim amendment (TIA) 00-1 (101), *Alcohol Based Hand Rub Solutions*, an amendment to the 2000 edition of the Life Safety Code, published by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). This amendment allows certain health care facilities to place alcohol-based hand rub dispensers in egress corridors under specified conditions. This final rule also requires that nursing facilities, at a minimum, install battery-operated single station smoke alarms in resident rooms and common areas if they are not fully sprinklered or they do not have system-based smoke detectors in those areas. Finally, this final rule confirms as final the provisions of the March 25, 2005 interim final rule with changes and responds to public comments on that rule. The final rule contains alterations of terminology and includes comments regarding "inappropriate access to minimize the potential for misuse of ABHRs and prevention of "ABHR-related falls."

These regulations are effective on October 23, 2006.

If you have any questions about this subject, please contact Fred Worley, Architectural Unit Manager, at (512) 438-2371.

Sincerely,

[signature on file]

Veronda L. Durden
Assistant Commissioner
Regulatory Services

VLD:ca