



2600 Bull Street
Columbia, SC 29201-1708

October 2, 2001

MEMORANDUM

TO: Administrators of Nursing Homes and Residential Treatment Facilities For Children and Adolescents

FROM: Jerry L. Paul, Director
Division of Health Licensing

SUBJECT: Conditions Allowing a Provider-wide Exception to the Requirements of Regulation 61-17, Standards For Licensing Nursing Homes and Regulation 61-103, Standards for Licensing Residential Treatment Facilities For Children and Adolescents

Regulation 61-17, Section B.(7)(g), requires that, "The facility shall have a written transfer agreement with one or more hospitals that provides reasonable assurance that transfer of residents will be made between the hospital and the nursing home . . . The agreement shall be updated to assure that it continues in effect following changes in ownership or administration and at any other time as deemed advisable to maintain or further improve continuity of care." Also, Regulation 61-103, Section C.(6)(a) requires a similar transfer agreement which indicates that "The agreement shall be updated to assure that it continues in effect following changes in administration or ownership, and at any other time deemed advisable to improve continuity of care."

Since the agreements with hospital(s), as referenced above, are between the hospital(s) and the nursing home, or between the hospital(s) and the residential treatment facility for children and adolescents, changes in administration would not affect the validity of the agreement. Therefore, in the interest of establishing reasonable standards that can be met by providers and yet do not compromise the health and well-being of clients served in the above facilities, it has been determined that alternative standards will be considered as acceptable.

All nursing homes and residential treatment facilities for children and adolescents will be required to meet the standard outlined in each respective regulation, i.e., R61-17, Section B.(7)(g), and R61-103, Section C.(6)(a), or, as an alternative these providers may choose to not update agreements with hospitals when there are administration changes, e.g., administrator, executive director.

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This exception applies only to nursing homes and residential treatment facilities for children and adolescents licensed by the Department. It relates solely to SC licensing standards. Any adverse condition(s) that may be related to this exception may result in revocation of the exception by the Department.

If there are any questions, you may call Dennis Gibbs at (803) 545-4370

JPL/jml

cc: C. Earl Hunter
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