CMS Releases S & C Memo on CPR in Nursing Homes

In a memo dated October 18, 2013, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) address the issue of facility policies and initiation of Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) as well as provide guidance to surveyors. A brief summary of the guidance follows below:

- **Initiation of CPR** - Prior to the arrival of emergency medical services (EMS), nursing homes must provide basic life support, including initiation of CPR, to a resident who experiences cardiac arrest (cessation of respirations and/or pulse) in accordance with that resident’s advance directives or in the absence of advance directives or a Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) order. CPR-certified staff must be available at all times.

- **Facility CPR Policy** – Some nursing homes have implemented facility-wide no CPR policies. Facilities must not establish and implement facility-wide no CPR policies.

- **Surveyor Implications** - Surveyors should ascertain that facility policies related to emergency response require staff to initiate CPR as appropriate and that records do not reflect instances where CPR was not initiated by staff even though the resident requested CPR or had not formulated advance directives.

The memo goes out to discuss a resident’s right to self-determination and to formulate an advance directive. Survey implications are also discussed with mention for possible citation under F 155 in the event the facility fails to comply with requirements for the resident to formulate their own advance directive. The entire memo may be retrieved by clicking here.