July 7, 2014

Q: I heard that federal CMS is conducting some pilot surveys with regard to MDS/care planning and dementia care. Is Illinois one of the chosen pilot states? Can you tell me a little about these pilot surveys and what they might entail?

A: Yes, federal CMS is in the process of doing pilot surveys for both MDS/care planning and dementia care. We have been told that CMS will choose three to five states to do these pilot surveys in. Each chosen state will be asked to conduct several of these surveys and they will be done by the same team of surveyors who have been trained in this new survey process. The surveys will be conducted unannounced and separately from any other survey and deficiencies and penalties could result. We believe (IDPH won’t confirm) that Illinois has been chosen as one of the states for the MDS/care planning pilot surveys. We have not yet heard if Illinois will be chosen for the dementia pilot surveys. We asked IDPH for the criteria/process of these pilot surveys and were told that CMS will not let the states release any information until after the surveys. We are asking our IHCA members to contact Matt Hartman or Bill Bell immediately if your facility receives one of these pilot surveys. Once we determine the scope and details of this new pilot survey, we will pass it along to all our members.