October 27, 2014

Q: Can you direct me to the federal regulation with regard to physician visits? My specific question is how often does a physician have to visit the resident after the initial visit?

A: Federal Tags F387 and F388 address this issue. The resident must be seen initially by the physician. Alternate subsequent visits can be made by a physician assistant, nurse practitioner or clinical nurse specialist. The resident must be seen at least once every 30 days for the first 90 days, and at least once every 60 days thereafter. However, a visit is considered timely if it occurs no later than 10 days after it was required.