December 22, 2014

Q: Our corporation has LTC facilities is other States that use the Quality Indicator Survey (QIS) process. Will Illinois move to this federal survey process and when?

A: The Quality Indicator Survey (QIS) is a computer assisted long-term care survey process used by selected State Survey Agencies and CMS to determine if Medicare and Medicaid certified nursing homes meet the Federal requirements. The QIS process is used in place of the traditional federal survey process currently used in Illinois. Federal CMS was implementing the QIS conversions in a staggered fashion (several States at a time). Illinois was to be in the next to last group for the QIS conversion until the federal budget problems put the implementation project on hold. We asked CMS recently what their plan was for moving forward with the stalled QIS project. CMS stated that there are no current plans to re-start the transition process. CMS is currently doing a comparison between the QIS and traditional survey processes and will try to align them at some point in the future. No definite timeframe was given. At some point in the future, we anticipate that there will be a modified QIS/traditional survey process that will take pieces of each tool/process and combine them into a single tool that all States will be required to use/follow. Click here for a summary/comparison between the two survey processes.