**December 5, 2016**

**Q:** I have a question about the 30, 60, 90 day physician visit timeframes. I have heard two contradicting sides from other professionals, so I wanted to make sure we are satisfying the regulation.

- When a resident is admitted on, say November 1, and the physician does not see them until November 16. Is November 16 the start of the 30 day window? So next visit should be December 16 and not include the 10 grace period.

- I have also heard that if the resident is admitted November 1 and the physician sees them November 16, then the next visit should be December 1 due to the admit date? However, I don’t see how this can be correct because there is not another 30 days lapsed between November 16 and December 1.

**A:** With regard to the timing of physician visits, Federal regulations under F387 state:

483.40(c) Frequency of Physician Visits

(1) The residents must be seen by a physician at least once every 30 days for the first 90 days after admission, and at least once every 60 days thereafter.

(2) A physician visit is considered timely if it occurs not later than 10 days after the date the visit was required.

Interpretive guidance states:
The timing of physician visits is based on the admission date of the resident. In a SNF, the first physician visit (this includes the initial comprehensive visit) must be conducted within the first 30 days, and then at 30 days intervals up until 90 days after the admission date. After the first 90 days, visits must be conducted at least once every 60 days thereafter.

**Permitting up to 10 days slippage of a due date will not affect the next due date.** (Highlighting added).

To answer the specific question - the admit date is what determines the time frame.