**October 9, 2017**

**Q:** To what extent are we required to meet a single resident’s request, for example, authentic Mexican foods?

**A:** We recommend doing your best to meet the resident’s preferences re: food. Serving 100 percent authentic ethnic food may not be feasible, so involve the resident in conversations/negotiations on how often this can be accomplished. Could family/friends provide such foods for special occasions? Learn more about the resident and his/her preferences — perhaps this is a request for just a few specific items. The bottom line is to talk to the resident and see what can be worked out (document this). The current Interpretive Guidance for F162 says: If the resident requests and receives food that is either not commonly purchased by the facility or easily prepared, then the facility may charge the resident (see also F571 in the new Interpretive Guidelines for additional guidance). You likely will not want to do this for every meal — that would raise eyebrows unless that is the resident’s choice (document this) and there is no room for negotiation.