

# MEMORANDUM

## Department of Aging and Disability Services Regulatory Services Policy \* Survey and Certification Clarification

**TO:** Regulatory Services  
Regional Directors and State Office Managers

**FROM:** Veronda L. Durden  
Assistant Commissioner  
Regulatory Services

**SUBJECT:** **S&CC 06-10** – Registered Nurse (RN) Stamped Signatures

**APPLIES TO:** Nursing Facilities (NFs)

**DATE:** August 17, 2006

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This is to inform NFs and Regulatory Services nursing facility program staff that RN rubber-stamped signatures are not acceptable on documentation that the registered nurse is required to sign.

It has come to our attention that some facilities have used RN stamped signatures on their Minimum Data Set (MDS) Assessments in lieu of the RN's handwritten signature. The requirement at 42 Code of Federal Regulations §483.20(i) (Certification) states that "a registered nurse must sign and certify that the assessment is completed" and that "each individual who completes a portion of the assessment must sign and certify the accuracy of that portion of the assessment." The Interpretive Guidelines for this section also state that "manually completed forms are signed and dated by each individual assessor the day they complete their portion(s) of the MDS record."

When the MDS form is completed directly on the facility's computer, each individual assessor signs and dates the computer-generated hard copy after reviewing the portion completed for accuracy. The RN coordinator signs and dates the computer-generated copy after reviewing it for completeness, including the signatures of all assessors.

If you have questions related to this process, please contact Vella Salazar, Nursing Facility Policy Specialist, Policy, Rules, and Curriculum Development, at 512) 438-3334.

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