

# Administrator Alert

*Policy updates & rule clarifications for Assisted Living,  
Residential Care & Nursing Facilities*

Office of Licensing & Quality – Oregon Department of Human Services

December 1, 2011

## Smoking Safety in Certified Nursing Facilities

Dear Administrator,

Please share the following information with all staff involved with resident assessment and care.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) released a review of Interpretive Guidelines for **F323**, *Accidents and Supervision* [42CFR, Part 483.25(h)].

Please see attached S&C Letter; key points include:

- Determination of residents' ability to smoke independently is assessment-based
- Facility policies must describe assessment methods
- Oxygen use is prohibited in smoking areas
- The facility must ensure the safety of designated smoking areas
- Electronic cigarettes are not considered smoking devices

### References:

Survey & Certification Letter 12-04-NH

Fire & Life Safety Practices Manual, OSFM, July 2011, Appendix D, *Smoking Policy*



For more information, contact the DHS Office of Licensing and Quality of Care, 1-800-232-3020. Visit the DHS Web site at [www.oregon.gov/DHS/](http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/)