March 6, 2013

Dear:

As you may be aware, the Agency for Health Care Administration has increased coordination efforts between the Medicaid program, the provider and facility licensure units, and other regulatory programs to ensure providers and facilities offer services that are safe and appropriate, and maintain the integrity of the Medicaid program. In addition to our standard compliance measures such as regulatory inspections, routine monitoring and audits, the Agency has also partnered with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Medicaid Integrity Group to conduct field initiatives involving unannounced visits to Medicaid providers to verify compliance.

One of the Agency’s most important goals is for all providers to maintain compliance with Medicaid program requirements and regulatory standards. During a recent compliance initiative in the Jacksonville area, we found the verification of paperwork to support Medicaid billing was lacking. Medicaid requires the health care provider, the facility administrator, and the resident to understand the services being provided by a facility. These forms, if required for your facility, can be found in your copy of Medicaid Assistive Care Services Coverage and Limitations Handbook or you may go to AHCA’s Office of Inspector General webpage at http://ahca.myflorida.com/Executive/Inspector_General/index.shtml and find the information and forms referenced here.

The Agency will continue to conduct similar compliance initiatives for all providers including persons providing services under the Medicaid DD Waiver program. We appreciate your assistance in sharing this information with your members with the goal of raising awareness and assuring program compliance before violations are identified. We anticipate at least two unannounced compliance initiatives before June 30, 2013. Our outreach is intended to encourage all providers to evaluate their own compliance with all Medicaid rules and regulations as well as licensing rules and regulations in a proactive manner.

The Agency has dedicated Medicaid and licensure staff around the state, and we encourage any provider who needs assistance understanding the rules and regulations to contact their local area office or their respective contact at the Agency for Persons with Disabilities. Contact information for each of these groups can be found via our website at www.ahca.myflorida.com.

Sincerely,

Eric W. Miller
Inspector General