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2600 Bull Street
Columbia, SC 29201-1708

August 2, 2002

MEMORANDUM

TO: Administrators, Community Residential Care Facilities

FROM: Dennis L. Gibbs, Director
Division of Health Licensing

SUBJECT: Provider-Wide Exception – Tuberculin Skin Testing

Section 1702.B.3 of Regulation 61-84, Standards for Licensing Community Residential Care Facilities, requires that "Residents shall have at least the first step within the period for completion of the admission physical examination as specified in Section 1101 (within 30 days prior to admission)."

In some instances, there may be a need for emergency crisis stabilization admission to a facility and it may not be practical to obtain the 1st step of the tuberculin skin test within the period designated by the regulation. In the interest of establishing reasonable standards that can be met by providers and yet do not compromise the health and well-being of the residents cared for in CRCF's, it has been determined that alternative standards will be considered as acceptable.

All CRCF's will be required to meet the standard outlined in the licensing standards, i.e., R61-84, Sections 1702.B.3 that require the 1st of the tuberculin testing within the period designated in the regulation (30 days prior to admission), or, as an alternative:

> Individuals who have been declared to be in an emergency crisis stabilization status may be admitted to CRCF's without the 1st step of tuberculin skin testing provided:
>
> 1) There is documentation at the facility of the declaration by Adult Protective Services of the South Carolina Department of Social Services or the South Carolina Department of Mental Health that the admission is, in fact, an emergency (NOTE: Only these agencies may declare these crisis stabilization admissions to be an emergency);
>
> 2) There is written evidence of a chest x-ray within 1 month prior to admission and written assessment by a physician or other authorized healthcare provider that there is no active TB; and

3) The resident receives the 1st step of the 2-step tuberculin skin test within 7 days after admission and the 2nd step 7-21 days after.

This exception applies to any CRCF licensed by the Department. It relates solely to SC licensing standards. Any adverse condition(s) that may be related to this exception may result in revocation of the exception by the Department.

If there are any questions regarding the above, please call Randy Clark at (803) 545-4230

DLG/jml

cc: Leon Frishman
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