

F580 – Notification of Changes

F580 in Appendix PP is frequently cited for failure to notify the physician and family for various reasons. The regulatory language states:

A facility must immediately inform the resident; consult with the physician and notify, consistent with his or her authority, the resident representative(s) when there is –

- An accident involving the resident which results in injury and has the potential for requiring physician intervention.
- A significant change in the resident’s physical, mental, or psychosocial status (a deterioration in health, mental, or psychosocial status in either life-threatening conditions or clinical complications)’
- A need to alter treatment significantly (a need to discontinue an existing form of treatment due to adverse consequences, or to commence a new form of treatment, or
- A decision to transfer or discharge the resident from the facility.

When making notification regarding a decision to transfer or discharge the resident from the facility, the nursing home must ensure that all pertinent information in 483.15(c)(2) is available and provided upon request to the physician.

483.15(c)(2) includes information in F627 – when the facility transfers or discharges a resident under any of the circumstances of this section, the nursing home must ensure that the transfer or discharge is documented in the resident’s medical record and appropriate information is communicated to the receiving health care institution or provider.

Documentation must include:

- The basis for the transfer
- The specific need(s) that cannot be met, attempts to meet the resident’s needs, and the service available at the receiving facility to meet the need(s).

Documentation must be made by the resident’s physician when the transfer or discharge is necessary.

The nursing home must also promptly notify the resident and the representative, if any, when there is –

A change in room or roommate assignment or

A change in resident rights under Federal or State law or regulations.

The nursing home must record and periodically update the address (mailing and email) and phone number of the resident representative(s).

Key notes from the Interpretive Guidance:

- Even when a resident is mentally competent, their designated representative should be notified of significant changes in their health status because the resident may not be able to notify them personally.
- If the resident is not capable of making their own decisions, the resident's representative must be contacted as applicable to their decision making authority. However, the resident should still be told what is happening to them (for example, you are going to the hospital because....)