



# STATE OF NEW YORK DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

161 Delaware Avenue, Delmar, NY 12054-1393

Antonia C. Novello, M.D., M.P.H., Dr. P.H.  
*Commissioner of Health*

Dennis P. Whalen  
*Executive Deputy Commissioner*

October 8, 2004

DAL/DQS 04-04

Subject: Veterans and Spouses of Veterans Residing in Nursing Homes

Dear Administrator:

The purpose of this letter is to advise all residential health care facilities in New York State of changes to the Executive Law and the Public Health Law, section 2805-o that became effective May 25, 2004. This section of the Public Health Law has been amended to require every nursing home to advise veterans and their spouses in writing about the services of the Division of Veterans' Affairs and local veterans' service agencies.

Nursing homes are required to advise veterans and the spouses of veterans, of the following information:

- the name, address, and telephone number of the State Division of Veterans' Affairs;
- the location of the nearest division office;
- the location of the nearest county or city veterans' service agency; and
- the location of the nearest accredited veterans' service officer.

This information must be provided in writing to veterans or the spouses of veterans presently in the facility and must be provided to any newly admitted veteran or the spouse of a veteran.

Please review your policies and procedures and make any necessary modifications to ensure compliance with this requirement. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Elliott Frost at (518) 408-1267. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,  
(s)

Keith W. Servis, Director  
Division of Quality & Surveillance  
for Nursing Homes & ICFs/MR