

APPENDIX A

Sample Selection and Analyses

APPENDIX A

SAMPLE SELECTION AND ANALYSIS

Sample Selection and Size

A proportional stratified random sample was determined to represent the total population of cases within the state area offices. The sample includes a total of 218 cases. This number was determined from a population of 1240 cases asserted as the total cases received from 2/90 to 1/91. The degree of accuracy used was 0.05 and the degree of confidence was 90 percent. Using the formula for calculating the sample size and a finite correction adjustment, a sample size of 225 cases was determined as needed. A total of 218 cases were received or 97 percent of the required cases.

To select the sample cases, a stratified random selection method was used. First, the area office was determined as the variable on which to base the strata. Then, the proportional size and actual needed number of cases in each area office was determined. A table of random numbers was used to randomly select the determined number of cases per area office. After this random selection, a table of the cases' DLIs by area office was created. This random selection was checked to ensure that it included a range of DLIs in each area office.

Analysis

The data were processed using a standard statistics package (SPSSX 4.1) mainframe connection to the Virtual Machine operating system of the City University of New York Computer Center's IBM 3090 processor complex. Descriptive procedures include frequency distributions for statewide, as well as area specific variable. Mean numbers of percentages were determined for ease of interpretation of all findings. Significance testing of the variation among area offices of selected variables was determined. All questionable data were individually confirmed with copies of the individual cases sent from the state.

APPENDIX B

Sample Forms With Sample Case

RHCF Complaint Survey and Investigation System

Cover Page

Facility Name _____
Street _____
City _____ Zip _____

Case ID (340) PFI YR MO SEQ AO Case ID (General) PFI YR MO SEQ AO

Method of Contact (check one) 1 ☐ Letter 2 ☐ Phone 3 ☐ In-Person 4 ☐ DLI
5 ☐ Answer service 6 ☐ OHSM 7 ☐ Other _____

Date of Initial Report _____ Time of Initial Report _____
m d y hr min am/pm

Complaint Source (check up to three)
Professional Staff Nonprofessional Other Outside Agency

11 ☐ Administrator	15 ☐ Phys. Therapist	31 ☐ Family/Friend	41 ☐ SOFA
12 ☐ Physician	16 ☐ Pharmacist	32 ☐ Resident (Other)	42 ☐ Legislature
13 ☐ RN	17 ☐ R. Dietician	33 ☐ Anonymous	43 ☐ Consumer Group
14 ☐ LPN	18 ☐ DON	34 ☐ OHSM	44 ☐ DSS
	19 ☐ Other _____	35 ☐ Resident (Self)	45 ☐ HGFA
		39 ☐ Other _____	49 ☐ Other _____

Complainant (print) Name: Last, First _____
Number, Street _____
City, State, Zip _____
Phone Number Home (_____) _____ Work (_____) _____

Patient Affected # N ☐ None O ☐ One S ☐ Several Room # _____ Sex ☐ Male ☐ Female
Age _____

Allegations (print) _____

Date of Alleged Event _____ Time of Alleged Event _____
m d y hr min am/pm

Patient at Risk? 1 ☐ Yes 2 ☐ No 3 ☐ Unknown
New Resident? 1 ☐ Yes 2 ☐ No 3 ☐ Unknown
Complaint Registered With Facility? 1 ☐ Yes 2 ☐ No 3 ☐ Unknown

Case Determination (check one or both) 1 ☐ 340 Complaint 2 ☐ General Complaint

RHCF Complaint Survey and Investigation System

Area Office Investigation (Non-340)

Case ID

Investigator #1 (print)

Code

Last

First

Investigator #2 (print)

Code

Last

First

Date of Assignment

Team Leader Code

Method of Investigation (check all that apply)

Offsite

Phone

Letter

Initial Offsite Contact Date

Onsite

Initial Onsite Date

1 Cert/Recent

2 PCV

3 Complaint

4 Interim

5 Other

Special Care Population

1 None

2 AIDS

3 Head Trauma

4 Pediatrics

5 Ventilator Dependent

9 Other

General Complaint

340

1 Yes

2 No

Total # of Onsite Visits

Time Spent (Investigators, Team Leaders, LTCPD)

Consultation

Onsite

Telephone Interviews

Travel

Write/Review Report

Time Spent (Stenors, Keyboard Specialist, Clerks)

Letters

Logging

Phone Calls

Typing

Total Professional Time

Total Support Time

Area Office (check all that apply)

Recommendation

1 None

2 SOF

3 SOD

4 Other

5 Follow-up on Survey

6 Conduct Focused Survey

Actions

1 None

2 SOF

3 SOD

4 Other

5 Follow-up on Survey

6 Conduct Focused Survey

Site Observations(s)?

(Not specific to this case)

1 Yes

2 No

Complete observation form DOH-1264 (d)

Investigator's Comments/Remarks (specific to this case only)

Report Completion Date

Approved by LTCPD

Respond to Complainant?

1 Yes

2 No

Response (Closure) Date

Signatures

Investigator #1

Investigator #2

AO Administrator (Designee)

Area Office Investigation (Non-340)

Case ID

Complaint Nature - Resident Specific
(check all that apply)

Nursing Care

- 101 ☐ Elimination
 102 ☐ Groom/Personal Care
 103 ☐ Insect Management
 104 ☐ Mobility
 105 ☐ Physical Restraint
 106 ☐ Positioning
 107 ☐ Skin Care
 108 ☐ Suctioning
 109 ☐ Tracheostomy Care
 110 ☐ Ventilator Care
 111 ☐ Other _____

Dietary/Nutrition

- 201 ☐ Adapt Feed Dev Avail
 202 ☐ Parenteral Feed
 203 ☐ Prep/Delivery
 204 ☐ Proper Diet/Amount
 205 ☐ Temperature/Taste
 206 ☐ Tube Feed
 207 ☐ Under/Over Weight
 208 ☐ Other _____
 209 ☐ Lack of Assistance

Medications

- 301 ☐ Incorrect Drug/Dose
 302 ☐ Improper Prod/Tech
 303 ☐ IV Administration
 304 ☐ Psychoactive Drugs
 305 ☐ Rate of Flow
 306 ☐ Other _____

Consultations

- 401 ☐ Dental
 402 ☐ Ophthalmology
 403 ☐ Podiatry
 404 ☐ Psychiatric
 405 ☐ Speech/Hearing
 406 ☐ Use of Private Phys
 407 ☐ Other _____

Resident
Rights/QOL

- 501 ☐ Activities
 502 ☐ Choice
 503 ☐ Exercise Rights
 504 ☐ Informed
 505 ☐ Privacy/Confident
 506 ☐ Religious Liberty
 507 ☐ Security/Protection
 508 ☐ Other _____
 509 ☐ Verbal Abuse

Miscellaneous

- 601 ☐ Care Plan
 602 ☐ DNR
 603 ☐ Failure to Treat
 604 ☐ Psychosocial
 605 ☐ Rehab (not mobility)
 606 ☐ Safety
 607 ☐ Other _____

RESOLUTION

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Area Office Investigation (Non-340)

Case ID	Diagram
1	

Complaint Nature - Facility Specific

(check all that apply)

101	☐	Call System
102	☐	Fire Safety Equip.
103	☐	Hazardous Waste
104	☐	HVAC
105	☐	Insects/Rodents
106	☐	Light/Low Glare
107	☐	Noise
108	☐	Odors
109	☐	Safety Bars/Rails
110	☐	Smoking
111	☐	Sanitation/Cleanliness
112	☐	Waste Disposal
113	☐	Water Temperature
114	☐	Other

Staffing

201	☐	Competency
202	☐	Qualifications
203	☐	Management
204	☐	Nonfacility Employee
205	☐	Other

Housekeeping/
Maintenance/
Laundry

301	Furniture
302	Linens (lacks, clean, storage)
303	Pers. Cloth (lacks, clean, stor)
304	Resident Related Equipment
305	Storage/Chemicals/Cleaners
306	Other

Infection Control

401 ☐ Hand Washing Sinks
402 ☐ Soap & Towels
403 ☐ Other

Pharmaceuticals

501 ☐ Emergency Kit
502 ☐ Quilted Drugs
503 ☐ Storage
504 ☐ Other

Miscellaneous

601 ☐ Administrative

602 ☐ Nontaxity Complaints

603 ☐ Theft of Funds/Possessions

604 ☐ Other

Location (LOC)	Administrative	Public Areas	Resident Care Unit/Area	Resident Convenience Area
O - Facility/unit wide	A - Admin/business off	G - Code/relax/stairs	M - Nursing station/office	U - Activities/rec room
	B - Food prep/kitchen	H - Lobby	N - OT, S/L, hearing	V - Beauty/barber shop
	C - Housekeep/main off	I - Off premise	P - Physical therapy	W - Day room
	D - Laundry	J - Parking lot	Q - Resid room/bathroom	X - Dining room
	E - Pharmacy	K - Visitors/staff bathroom	R - Shower room	Y - Screen porch/yard
	F - Other _____	L - Other _____	S - Tx/exam rooms	Z - Other _____
			T - Other _____	

Service Department (S/D)	Resolution
A - Medical	J - Housekeep/Maint
B - Nursing	K - Administration
C - Dietary	Z - Other _____
D - Rehab Therapy	G - Dental
E - Pharmacy	H - Social Services
F - Lab/Radiology	I - Activities
	U - Unsustained
	SN - Sustained no SOf or SOD
	TRI - Triggered survey

RHCF Complaint Survey and Investigation System

Observation Form

Case ID

Investigator (print) Code

Last

First

Date of Site Visit

m d y

Time of Observation

hr min am/pm

Patient Specific?

1 ☐ Yes
2 ☐ No

Affected #: N ☐ None

O ☐ One

S ☐ Several

Facility Specific?

1 ☐ Yes
2 ☐ No

Resident Specific Observation (check all that apply)

Dietary/Nutrition	001 ☐ Adapt Feed Dev Avail 002 ☐ Dehydrator 003 ☐ Parenteral Feed 004 ☐ Prep/Delivery 005 ☐ Proper Diet 006 ☐ Temp/Taste/Quantity 007 ☐ Hydration 008 ☐ Tube Feed 009 ☐ Under/Over Weight 010 ☐ Other 011 ☐ Lack of Assistance	LOC	Elimination	501 ☐ Incontinent B/B 502 ☐ Indwelling Catheter 503 ☐ Ostomy 504 ☐ Other	LOC
Mobility	101 ☐ PCM 102 ☐ Transfer 103 ☐ Use of Mechanical Dev 104 ☐ Other	LOC	Positioning Dev. (splints, handrolls) 601 ☐ Improper Application 602 ☐ Not Applied 603 ☐ Other	LOC	
Medications	201 ☐ Compromised Rx Admin 202 ☐ Improper Proc/Tech 203 ☐ Rate of Flow 204 ☐ Other	LOC	Infection Management 701 ☐ Isolation Issue 702 ☐ Procedures 703 ☐ Techniques 704 ☐ Other	LOC	
Restraints	301 ☐ Psychoactive Drugs 302 ☐ Not Applied 303 ☐ Improper Type 304 ☐ Improper Application 305 ☐ Improper Type & Application 306 ☐ Other 307 ☐ Not Released	LOC	Respiratory 801 ☐ Compromised Suctioning 802 ☐ Compromised Trac Care 803 ☐ Compromised Vent Care 804 ☐ Other	LOC	
Injury Related	401 ☐ Confusion/Abrasion 402 ☐ Decubitus 403 ☐ Fracture 404 ☐ Hematoma 405 ☐ Laceration 406 ☐ Patient Abuse 407 ☐ Other	LOC	Quality of Life 901 ☐ Activities 902 ☐ Choice 903 ☐ Environment 904 ☐ Facility Philosophy 905 ☐ Grooming/Person Care 906 ☐ Interactions 907 ☐ Personal/Social/Spirit 908 ☐ Privacy 909 ☐ Security 910 ☐ Other	LOC	

Location (LOC)

Administrative

Public Areas

Resident Care Unit/Area

Resident Convenience Area

O - Facility/unit wide

A - Admin/business off
B - Food prep/kitchen
C - Housekeep/main off
D - Laundry
E - Pharmacy
F - Other

G - Corridor/elev/stairs
H - Lobby
I - Off premise
J - Parking lot
K - Visitors/staff bathroom
L - Other

M - Nursing station/office
N - OT, SL, hearing
P - Physical therapy
Q - Resident room/bathroom
R - Shower room
S - Tx/exam rooms
T - Other

U - Activities/rec room
V - Beauty/barber shop
W - Day room
X - Dining room
Y - Screen porch-yard
Z - Other

SAMPLE CASE

NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH - SYRACUSE OFFICE OF HEALTH SYSTEMS MANAGEMENT

HEALTH CARE FACILITY REPORT FORM

Possible 340 conversion

V.O. LOG /

LOG /

Person Making Report	Name and Home Address (Include Title, Position, or Relationship to Patient/Facility) [REDACTED]		Telephone / Area Code Extension Home: [REDACTED] Work: [REDACTED]	
Facility Identifying Information	Name & Address of Facility County: [REDACTED]	INVESTIGATIVE RESPONSE ☐ Initiate Immediately ☐ Initiate by Letter ☐ Initiate Within 2 Weeks ☒ Other <i>As soon as possible</i>		
Patient	Name & Current Location [REDACTED]	Accused	Name & Current Address [REDACTED]	
Complaint	Include: Date, time and specific location of allegations; names of all persons involved and witnesses, if any; names of persons who attempted to dissuade the person making the report from doing so. Has the patient/resident been the object of these allegations on prior occasions? Any other information the person making the report deems appropriate.			
Informants/Witnesses	7/14/90 - pt. found in another room, had apparently fallen out of w/c; transferred to hospital for x rays. Hospital transferred back to NH. X rays confirmed fx hip, pt. then transferred back to hospital. Patient currently in [REDACTED] after hip surgery. Patient has fallen 4 times in past year. Family was assured pt. would be restrained while in w/c and feels pt. was neglected; [REDACTED] is person who assured SAM.			

Name and Title of Person Receiving the Report

Investigator

Date Received 7-16-90 Time Received 4:05 pm

Date of Investigation

☒ Phone Call ☐ Letter ☐ Other
☐ Weekday ☐ Weeknight ☐ Weekend ☐ Holiday

OSP Contacted? ☐ Yes ☒ No D.A. Contacted? ☐ Yes ☒ No

O.P.H.C. Contacted? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Other:

SIA-48 (rev. 1/87)

==>

RHCFCOVF

RHCF Complaint Survey and Investigation System (Cover Sheet)

Case ID <-(340) Case ID <-(General)
Name
Street City ZIP
Initial Report Date 07 16 90 Initial Report Time 04 05 P M
Contact Method 2 Complaint Src 1 31
Complaint Src2 Complaint Src 3
Complainant

Last First
Street City State NY ZIP
Home Phone ())
Patient

Affected # 0 Room # Age Sex

Allegations

PT FOUND IN ANOTHER ROOM, FALLEN OUT OF W/C SUSTAINED FX HIP
PT NOT RESTRAINED THOUGH FAMILY ASSURED BY STAFF SHE WOULD BE.
PT TO ER AND RET BEFORE XRAY'S READ. XRAY'S READ, PT BACK TO ER
NO SURG AVAIL., PT THEN TRANSFERRED TO FOR SURGERY

Alleged Event Date 07 16 90 Alleged Event Time Complaint Registered? 3
Patient at Risk? 3 New Patient? 2 Complaint

340 Complaint

PF1= Help
PF2= Check
Aa

X General Complaint

PF3= Save

PF6= Print

BO---SESSION1 R 7 C 23 o-o80 15:44 2/10/92
PF12= Return

RHCF Complaint Survey and Investigation System

NEWARK COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
BUREAU OF HEALTH SERVICES

Case Office Investigation (Non-340)

Case ID 1072590107511-41

Investigator #1 (print) Code [redacted] First [redacted]

Investigator #2 (print) Code [redacted] First [redacted]

Date of Assignment 1071699 Team Leader Code [redacted]

Method of Investigation (check all that apply)

Offsite
11 ☐ Phone
12 ☐ Letter
Initial Contact Date [redacted]

Initial Onsite Date

1071996

Initial Onsite Time

11:00 am

Special Care Population (check all that apply)
1 ☒ None
2 ☐ AIDS
3 ☐ Head Trauma
4 ☐ Pediatrics
5 ☐ Ventilator Dependent
9 ☐ Other

General Complaint 340 1 ☐ Yes 2 ☒ No

Total # of Onsite Visits 102

Time Spent (Investigators, Team Leaders, LTCPD)

Consultation [redacted] hrs
Onsite 6.00 hrs
Telephone Interviews 5.50 hrs
Travel 3.00 hrs
Write/Review Report 5.00 hrs

Time Spent (Stenos, Keyboard Specialist, Clerks)

Letters 5.50 hrs
Logging 1.00 hrs
Phone Calls 5.50 hrs
Typing 5.50 hrs

Total Professional Time 14.50 hrs

Total Support Time 2.50 hrs

Area Office (check all that apply)

Recommendation 1 ☐ None 2 ☐ SOF 3 ☒ SOD 4 ☐ Other

Actions

1 ☐ None 2 ☐ SOF 3 ☒ SOD 4 ☐ Other

Site Observations(s)? (Not specific to this case)

1 ☐ Yes 2 ☒ No

Investigator's Comments/Remarks (Specific to this case only)

Respond to Complainant?

1 ☒ Yes 2 ☐ No

Response (Closure) Date

10718990

Report Completion Date

10809990

Signatures

Investigator #1

Investigator #2

AO Administrator (Designee)

PHCF Complaint Survey and Investigation System

Case ID: _____

Complaint Nature - Resident (check as that apply)

Nursing Care

- 101 ☐ _____
- 102 ☐ _____
- 103 ☐ _____
- 104 ☐ _____
- 105 ☐ _____
- 106 ☐ _____
- 107 ☐ _____
- 108 ☐ _____
- 109 ☐ _____
- 110 ☐ _____
- 111 ☐ _____

Dietary/Nutrition

- 206 ☐ _____
- 207 ☐ _____
- 208 ☐ _____
- 209 ☐ _____
- 210 ☐ _____
- 211 ☐ _____
- 212 ☐ _____
- 213 ☐ _____
- 214 ☐ _____
- 215 ☐ _____
- 216 ☐ _____
- 217 ☐ _____
- 218 ☐ _____

Medications

- 301 ☐ _____
- 302 ☐ _____
- 303 ☐ _____
- 304 ☐ _____
- 305 ☐ _____
- 306 ☐ _____
- 307 ☐ _____

Consultations

- 401 ☐ _____
- 402 ☐ _____
- 403 ☐ _____
- 404 ☐ _____
- 405 ☐ _____
- 406 ☐ _____
- 407 ☐ _____

Resident Rights/COOL

- 501 ☐ _____
- 502 ☐ _____
- 503 ☐ _____
- 504 ☐ _____
- 505 ☐ _____
- 506 ☐ _____
- 507 ☐ _____
- 508 ☐ _____

Miscellaneous

- 601 ☐ _____
- 602 ☐ _____
- 603 ☐ _____
- 604 ☐ _____
- 605 ☐ _____
- 606 ☐ _____
- 607 ☐ _____

Location (LOC)

- A - Administrative
- B - Food Prep/Kitchen
- C - Housekeeping/Janitorial
- D - Laundry
- E - Pharmacy
- F - Other _____

Public Areas

- G - Corridor/stairs
- H - Lobby
- I - QLI premise
- J - Parking lot
- K - Visitors/staff bathroom
- L - Other _____

Resident Care Unit/Area

- M - Nursing station
- N - OT, SA, hearing
- P - Physical therapy
- Q - Resid room/bathroom
- R - Shower room
- S - Tr/Exam rooms
- T - Other _____

Resident Convenience Area

- U - Activities/ther room
- V - Beauty/barber shop
- W - Day room
- X - Dining room
- Y - Screen porch/yard
- Z - Other _____

Service Department (S/D)

- A - Medical
- B - Nursing
- C - Dietary
- D - Rehab Therapy
- E - Pharmacy
- F - Lab/Radiology

Resolution

- U - Unsustained
- SN - Sustained no SOF or SOO
- TRI - Triggered survey

Area Office Investigation (Non-SQF)

Case ID

RESOLUTION

Complaint Nature - Facility

(check all that apply)

Environmental

- 101 ☐ Pesticides
- 102 ☐ Hazardous Waste
- 103 ☐ Noise
- 104 ☐ Insects/Rodents
- 105 ☐ Light/Low Noise
- 106 ☐ Noise
- 107 ☐ Odors
- 108 ☐ Safety Burns/Falls
- 109 ☐ Breathing
- 110 ☐ Sanitation/Cleanliness
- 111 ☐ Waste Disposal
- 112 ☐ Water Temperature
- 113 ☐ Other

Staffing

- 201 ☐ Competency
- 202 ☐ Credentials
- 203 ☐ Management
- 204 ☐ Workday/Employee
- 205 ☐ Other

Housekeeping/
Maintenance/
Laundry

- 301 ☐ Furniture
- 302 ☐ Linen (lacks, clean, storage)
- 303 ☐ Pest Control (lack, clean, floor)
- 304 ☐ Resident Related Equipment
- 305 ☐ Storage Chemicals/Chemicals
- 306 ☐ Other

Infection Control

- 401 ☐ Hand Washing Sinks
- 402 ☐ Soap & Towels
- 403 ☐ Other

Pharmaceuticals

- 501 ☐ Emergency Kit
- 502 ☐ Outdated Drugs
- 503 ☐ Storage
- 504 ☐ Other

Miscellaneous

- 601 ☐ Administrative
- 602 ☐ Non-Facility Complaints
- 603 ☐ Theft of Funds/Possessions
- 604 ☐ Other

Location (LOC)

- A - Facility Business of
- B - Food prep/kitchen
- C - Housekeeping/main of
- D - Laundry
- E - Pharmacy
- F - Other

Public Areas

- G - Corridor/Elevators
- H - Lobby
- I - Off premise
- J - Parking lot
- K - Visitors/salt bathroom
- L - Other

Resident Care Unit/Area

- M - Nursing station
- N - OT, S/L, hearing
- P - Physical therapy
- O - Resident room/bathroom
- R - Shower room
- S - Tyvek room
- T - Other

Resident Convenience Area

- U - Activities/med room
- V - Beauty/barber shop
- W - Day room
- X - Dining room
- Y - Screen porch/yard
- Z - Other

Service Department (S/D)

- A - Medical
- B - Nursing
- C - Dietary
- D - Rehab Therapy
- E - Pharmacy
- F - Lab/Radiology

Resolution

- U - Unsustained
- SN - Sustained no SQF or SQO
- TRI - Triggered survey

MEMORANDUM

TO: FOR THE RECORD

FROM: [REDACTED]

DATE: August 9, 1990

SUBJECT:

ALLEGATION:

Resident, [REDACTED], had apparently wandered and was discovered in another patient's room. [REDACTED] had apparently fallen out of wheelchair; transferred to [REDACTED] Hospital for x-rays. X-rays taken at hospital, but before they were read, hospital transferred patient in wheelchair back to nursing home. X-rays confirmed fractured hip and patient then transferred back to [REDACTED] Hospital. Patient currently in a [REDACTED] hospital recovering from hip surgery because surgeon unavailable at [REDACTED] Hospital. Complainant's concerns include:

- 1.) Patient has fallen 4 times in recent past and family was assured restraint would be applied to prevent future falls.
- 2.) Patient was transferred in wheelchair from emergency room back to nursing home before x-rays were read.

INVESTIGATION:

I visited the facilities, interviewed staff and reviewed records on 07/19/90. The following information was obtained:

[REDACTED] widow admitted to Home, [REDACTED], on 04/22/88 with diagnoses of senile dementia and anemia; services of [REDACTED]. She had a relatively uneventful stay until 07/11/90 when she was found on the floor in Room 217 at approximately 1605 hours. She was lying on her right side by the foot of the bed; her wheelchair was tipped over and collapsed behind her, and the soft blue belt restraint that she had been wearing was still secured to the wheelchair. It appeared to staff that she had slid out of the restraint and onto the floor.

The nurse aide who found the resident on the floor called the LPV charge nurse who called another LPV. The second LPV reported that the resident's right foot was tangled between the foot rests and she extricated it. They examined the resident and noted two small skin tears on her right lower leg, but no other abrasions/lacerations. The resident stated her back and ankle hurt. They asked the resident if she could stand and she said she could, so they lifted her to her feet, stood her with support on both sides to check her back and sat her in her wheelchair. At about this time, she complained of right foot and right hip pain. The RN supervisor was notified at this time.

The charge nurse called the attending physician, [REDACTED], but was unable to reach him, so she called [REDACTED], who ordered an x-ray of her right hip and ankle. The charge nurse notified the family of the incident and the skin tears were treated.

Shortly after 1630 hours, a nurse aide transported the resident via wheelchair to the radiology department at [REDACTED] Hospital. The aide and the x-ray technician assisted the resident onto the x-ray table, the films were taken, and they assisted her back to her wheelchair. It is not clear exactly how the transfers were enacted; it appears she was supported on both sides by the staff so that there was little actual weight bearing. The nurse aide inquired as to how the films looked and the x-ray technician reported it looked like a fractured right hip. The nurse aide inquired as to the next step and was told to take the resident back to the RHCF, which she did. Meanwhile, one of the resident's daughters arrived in the x-ray department of the hospital and inquired as to the results of the x-ray. She was informed by the x-ray technician that he did not read x-rays and she returned to the RHCF.

Upon the resident's returned at approximately 1700 hours, the charge nurse called the x-ray technician for a report of the x-ray and he told her it looked like a probable fracture. Her attempts to contact [REDACTED] were unsuccessful, but she contacted [REDACTED] and notified him of the x-ray findings. He ordered the resident transferred to the [REDACTED] hospital emergency room for evaluation and admittance. At this time, the resident was transferred from wheelchair to stretcher and transported to the emergency room. Here, she was diagnosed as having a definite fracture and because the orthopedic surgeon was on vacation, was transferred to [REDACTED] Hospital, [REDACTED], NY, for surgery.

She had been found unrestrained in her chair by staff at 1530 hours, apparently having untied herself, and was re-restrained at that time. The procedure was reviewed with the staff member involved and found to be appropriate, with the exception that the restraint should have been tied so that it was inaccessible to the resident. This, however, did not affect this particular incident as in this case the resident did not untie the restraint, but slipped out of it.

The resident was then seen by the Nurse Director at approximately 1550 hours, when the resident was noted to be restrained, in the area of the nursing station, attempting to open the medication room door.

SUMMARY:

Based on the investigation the complaint that the resident was not properly restrained, resulting in her fall from the wheelchair, was not substantiated. Nor was there a lack of supervision of the resident, as she had been seen by staff, restrained in her wheelchair, 15 minutes before her fall. It is noted that the 3:30 p.m. re-tying of the restraint was done in a manner that made it accessible to the resident, and though it was not relevant in this case, it ~~could~~^{could} have been in another scenario and could have contributed to a fall. Nor had the interdisciplinary team reviewed her restraint use thoroughly and specified that the restraint should be tied so that it was inaccessible to the resident. The allegations of "4 falls in recent past" could not be substantiated; the only record of a prior fall was 05/08/90.

Problems identified in the care of the resident at the RHCF are;

- 1.) LPN's failed to call the RN supervisor before moving the resident, and there is no documentation of vital signs and range of motion after the incident. She was then placed in a wheelchair rather than on a stretcher, despite concern over fractured bones, and transported to and from x-ray via wheelchair.
- 2.) The physician plan for care upon being notified of the fall was incomplete i.e. simply x-rays and no plan for medical evaluation in this ~~patient~~, i.e. she could have been sent to the emergency room for evaluation originally, or he could have made plans to come in and see the film and the resident. This was not done and resulted in unnecessary confusion, i.e. return to the RHCF despite probable fracture and then subsequent transfer back to the hospital emergency room.

Problems identified in the care of the resident at the hospital are:

- 1.) Failure to transport resident by stretcher once a fractured hip seem probable.
- 2.) Lack of a clearly defined procedure for reading of x-rays, particularly acute fractures, when a Radiologist is not on duty.

Upon receipt of the complaint, both facility Administrators performed investigations, spoke with the complainant and acted appropriately (see Attachment I; the hospital's investigation report and action plan). ~~██████████~~, the resident's attending physician at the RHCF, contacted ~~██████████~~ to ask his opinion whether the failure to transport the resident by stretcher affected her fracture or its position. He said he believed it had no impact.

CONCLUSION:

Facilities should be cited as deficient in the area of resident care because of the above identified problems.

██████████

APPENDIX C

Form Used by Evaluators



NURSING HOME COMMUNITY COALITION
OF NEW YORK STATE (NHCC)
11 John Street - Suite 601
New York, NY 10038
(212) 385-0355

Case number _____

Reviewer _____

If No, Give
Explanation

Y N DK/NA

1. Did the investigators investigate
in a timely fashion?

2. Did the investigators investigate
at an appropriate time?

i.e. complaint was about a 3-11
shift - did investigator
go in at that time?

3. Did you agree with the DLI?

4. Did you agree with the resolution?

5. Did the investigators interview

residents?

family?

staff?

other?

6. Were all aspects of the complaint
investigated?

APPENDIX D

DLI Index and Decision-Making: Deficiencies

APPENDIX D

DEFICIT LEVEL INDEX

The Deficit Level Index (DLI) was developed to help investigators and surveyors decide if a facility should be cited for negative outcomes found, i.e., be given a deficiency. The assumption behind the development of the DLI was that not every violation of the federal and state standards of good care (negative finding) should result in the citing of the nursing home with a deficiency. The DLI is based upon scales that attempt to measure the severity or seriousness of a negative resident outcome. On the next page is a description of the two scales, one measuring the amount of physical harm and one measuring the amount of psychosocial harm or effect on quality of life. As you can see, the scales run from 1 to 5. Depending upon the negative finding or outcome being evaluated, an investigator or a surveyor can use either scale. If more than one scale is used, the highest DLI is chosen for the deficiency decision making.

Resident Outcome Scale

The Resident Outcome Scale, measuring physical harm, is the easiest one to understand and use and seems to intuitively make sense. Thus, a score of one (1) means that the negative resident outcome caused no harm nor was it likely to have caused harm. A score of two (2) means that the negative resident outcome has caused no harm but if a number of similar outcomes were to occur over time, harm would gradually occur. A score of three (3) can mean that either the negative resident outcome has not caused harm but there is a potential for harm from only that one event or that harm has occurred from the negative resident outcome but a physician was not needed. A score of four (4) means that harm was caused by the negative resident outcome and a physician was needed. A score of five (5) means that the harm that has occurred is life threatening.

Reaction Scale

The Reaction Scale, measuring quality of life issues or psychosocial effects of the negative resident outcome being investigated, is more difficult to use and to understand because it deals with intangible issues such as resident rights, self-esteem, dignity and comfort.

The scale attempts to rate these issues independent of both the investigator's feelings and the reasonableness of the actual resident involved, by deciding how a hypothetical "reasonable person" would react in the situation being observed or investigated rather than how the actual resident would react.

The concept of the "reasonable person" is drawn from the notion of the "reasonable man of ordinary prudence," used in the law of negligence. The reasonable person is considered to be a model of all proper qualities. S/he reacts to situations in a rational and nonemotional way. S/he is always aware of her/his surroundings and

would be expected to act more strenuously if negative situations are repeated.

In order to take into account characteristics that would appropriately affect any reaction taken, the investigator does assume that the physical characteristics of the actual resident are the characteristics of the reasonable person. The reasonable person's reaction to any negative event will be appropriately affected by her/his physical characteristics. Being blind, unable to move or speak will affect the reaction the investigator or surveyor assumes would be taken to any negative event.

However, in order to evaluate the event independent of whether the actual resident involved is even aware of it, the reasonable person is considered to be of normal intellect and even temperament. In addition, in order to better measure the responses that would normally be taken to the event being investigated, the reasonable person is assumed not to be concerned about caregiver retaliation.

A score of one (1) means that the investigator or surveyor believes that the event was such that the reasonable person would have reacted to the negative event merely by mentioning it to a staff person. A score of two (2) means that the reasonable person would have done more; she/he would have said something to the staff member immediately responsible or would have removed her/himself from the situation. A score of three (3) means that the reasonable person would have spoken to the supervisors of the individual staff member responsible or with the nursing home administrator. A score of four (4) means that the reasonable person would have communicated with the Health Department or advocacy groups or tried to transfer. A score of five (5) means that the reasonable person would have communicated with the Office of the District Attorney or the Deputy Attorney General for an investigation of possible criminal conduct.

Decision-Making: Deficiencies

In order to determine whether a negative finding should be written as a deficiency against the facility, the investigator or surveyor measures not only the severity of the finding using the DLI but also measures the scope of the finding, i.e. how many times did this or similar events happen? Negative findings with DLI scores of 1 are never written as deficiencies. If an investigator or surveyor finds at least seven (7) negative outcomes with a DLI score of 2, with three (3) of the negative outcomes affecting the same unit of care (for example, nursing), a deficiency may be written. If an investigator or surveyor finds at least three (3) negative findings in the same unit of care or five (5) negative findings in any area, with a DLI score of 3, a deficiency may be written. A deficiency may be written with only one (1) negative finding if it has a DLI score of 4 or 5.

DEFICIT LEVEL INDEX

A

RESIDENT OUTCOME SCALE

Rate the harm to the resident based on the change for the worse or the failure to achieve and maintain the highest practicable level of the resident's physical, mental, and psychological well-being.

DEFICIT LEVEL

1. No harm has occurred nor was it likely to have occurred.
2. No harm has occurred but if multiple similar events were to occur over time, harm would gradually occur.
3. No harm has occurred, but there is the potential for harm from a single occurrence. The harm that could occur need not require physician intervention;

OR

Harm has occurred which did not warrant physician intervention.

4. Harm has occurred which warranted physician intervention.

5. Harm has occurred which is physical and life threatening.

B

REACTION SCALE

Rate the discomfort or degradation in quality of life experienced by the resident as determined by the reaction of a reasonable person to the situation. A reasonable person reacts more strenuously with repetition of the same or similar situations.

DEFICIT LEVEL

1. A reasonable person may mention the occurrence to a staff person.
2. A reasonable person would make verbal objection to the staff person immediately responsible or would remove self from the situation.
3. A reasonable person would report the occurrence to the supervisor of the staff person immediately responsible or the facility administrator.

4. A reasonable person would take steps beyond reporting to the facility administrator to ensure no recurrence such as relocation out of the facility or notification of regulatory authorities.

5. A reasonable person would request outside investigation of possible criminal conduct.

APPENDIX E

Questions For Long Term Care Directors

QUESTIONS FOR LONG TERM CARE DIRECTORS
CONCERNING THE PATIENT CARE INVESTIGATION SYSTEM

Complaint Comes In By Telephone

1. Who answers the call and takes information?
 - a patient care investigator?
 - support personnel?
 - another professional?
2. What is the procedure for taking the information?
3. What is the caller told?
4. What forms are filled out at this point?
5. What time frame is involved for this step?

Classification

1. Who makes the decision to classify the complaint as a 340 or a non-340 (general)?
2. How do you define 340s and non-340s?
3. Are some complaints classified as "bogus" or without any evidence prior to an investigation? If so, how and who makes this determination?

Yes _____ Who _____ How _____

4. If any complaints are classified immediately as "bogus", does this mean that the case is immediately thrown out with all paperwork expunged? About how many complaints fall into this category, i.e., bogus and expunged?

Yes _____ No _____ How many? _____

5. Do you keep paperwork on complaints that have been determined to have no evidence or have been determined to be "bogus" (as defined in question #4)?
6. What do you do with complaints from complainants who complain frequently on the same issue or on different issues?
7. What is the time frame for this step?

Assignment of an Investigator

1. Who assigns an investigator?
2. If your investigative team includes other disciplines in addition to nursing, how is the decision made to assign different specialties?

3. If your investigative team does not include other disciplines in addition to nursing, what do you do if a case involves medical services, physical therapy, social work, etc?

4. What do you do if you have no investigators to send out?

5. How many investigators do you have and what disciplines are represented?

Investigators _____ Disciplines _____

6. Is the investigative staff different from the survey staff?

Combined and used interchangeable _____ Separate _____

7. What is the time frame for this step?

48 Hour Visit

1. Are investigators sent out within 48 hours for all 340s?

2. Are all 340s investigated within 48 hours?

3. What are some of the reasons that you have been unable to send investigators out or to investigate within 48 hours?

4. What are some of the reasons that you have chosen not to send an investigator out or to investigate within 48 hours?

5. Under what circumstances would you decide to send an investigator out within 48 hours for a non-340?

Other Time Frames for Investigations

1. What criteria do you use for deciding a complaint can be circumscribed within the normal surveillance system?

2. If you decide to use the normal surveillance system, how long between the complaint call and the survey can elapse?

Investigation

-1. Are all investigations conducted on-site?

2. Upon arrival in the facility, what information does the investigator give to the administration?

3. What are the specific steps in an on-site investigation?

- Are residents and/or family members always interviewed?
- Are staff always interviewed?
- Under what circumstances might residents and/or family members or staff not be interviewed?

- What does investigator say to interviewees about the case and the reason s/he is there?
- Under what circumstances might facility records not be reviewed?

4. Does the investigator interview the complainant?
5. Under what circumstances may individuals be interviewed by telephone?
6. What do you believe is the average length of time an investigator spends in the facility on-site? What is the range of times spent, from least time spent to most time spent?

In Office Report Writing

1. What happens if an investigator investigating a 340 determines that the problem seems to be systemic and may be violations of the Federal and/or New York State Code?

Determinations and Action

1. Who makes the final determination that other specific actions will be taken: a focused survey; a follow-up survey; issuing findings; or issuing deficiencies? What criteria are used?
2. Who makes the final determination that the 340 is sustained in the area office? What criteria are used?
3. What happens to the 340 cases if unsustained at the area office level?
4. What is the procedure if a determination is made in the area office to write deficiencies for the facility?
5. If a determination is made that a facility violated the Federal and/or New York State Code but a deficiency is not warranted, what is done?
6. Does Central Office review any of the actions taken at the area office level? If so, which ones are reviewed?
7. What procedure do you have for keeping a history of complaints against facilities for surveyors to look for a pattern of problems?
8. How do you define a sustained non-340 case?
9. How long does it take from the investigation to an action; e.g., sending a statement of deficiencies to the facility?
10. Are all 340 cases determined to be sustained at the area office sent to Central Office?
11. Are all non-340 cases determined to be sustained at the area office sent to Central Office?

Commissioner Designees

1. Under what circumstances are area office personnel used as commissioner designees?
2. How are Commissioner Designees chosen?
3. How many cases are assigned to individual Designees?
4. What criteria are used in making the decisions?

Conclusion

1. What information does the complainant receive at the conclusion of a 340 case?
2. What information does the complainant receive at the conclusion of a non-340 case?
3. How does s/he receive this information?

Notification of Professional Boards

1. What is the procedure for notifying professional boards?

APPENDIX F
Summary of Results by Area Office

NEW ROCHELLE AREA OFFICE

Number of cases in the sample.....	50
percent of sample.....	23%
Number of complaints in the sample.....	120
percent of sample.....	26%
Time from the initial contact to:	
the initiation of complaint.....	26 days
the completion of the investigation.....	116 days
the response to the complainant.....	193 days
Total professional time spent on complaints.....	11.0 hours
on-site.....	3.5 hours
telephone.....	0.3 hours
write report.....	4.8 hours
Percent of sustained complaints.....	28%
Percent of unsustained complaints.....	68%
Action taken on cases	
None.....	66%
SOF.....	10%
SOD.....	20%
FUS.....	-
FS.....	-
Other.....	4%
Action taken on sustained cases (18 cases)	
None.....	33%
SOF.....	11%
SOD.....	50%
FUS.....	-
FS.....	-
Other.....	6%
Action taken on sustained complaints with DLIIs of 4 or 5	
None.....	1 complaint
SOF.....	2 complaint
SOD.....	7 complaint
Percent of cases where evaluator believed that the investigator <u>did</u> not:	
Resolve the case correctly.....	36%
Investigate all aspects of the case.....	45%
Interview residents when appropriate.....	33%
Interview family when appropriate and when family not the complainant.....	75%
Initiate the investigation in a timely fashion.....	30%

NEW YORK CITY AREA OFFICE

Number of cases in the sample.....	56
percent of sample.....	26%
Number of complaints in the sample.....	92
percent of sample.....	20%

Time from the initial contact to:	
the initiation of complaint.....	19 days
the completion of the investigation.....	92 days
the response to the complainant.....	115 days

Total professional time spent on complaints.....	8.9 hours
on-site.....	3.0 hours
telephone.....	0.9 hours
write report.....	2.8 hours

Percent of sustained complaints.....	16%
Percent of unsustained complaints.....	80%

Action taken on cases	
None.....	89%
SOF.....	7%
SOD.....	-
FUS.....	-
FS.....	-
Other.....	4%

Action taken on sustained cases (9 cases)	
None.....	44%
SOF.....	33%
SOD.....	-
FUS.....	-
FS.....	-
Other.....	22%

Action taken on sustained complaints with DLIs of 4 or 5	
None.....	5 complaints
SOF.....	8 complaints
SOD.....	-

Percent of cases where evaluator believed that the investigator <u>did not</u> :	
Resolve the case correctly.....	23%
Investigate all aspects of the case.....	41%
Interview residents when appropriate.....	32%
Interview family when appropriate and when family not the complainant.....	61%
Initiate the investigation in a timely fashion.....	22%

SYRACUSE AREA OFFICE

Number of cases in the sample.....	23
percent of sample.....	11%
Number of complaints in the sample.....	33
percent of sample.....	7%

Time from the initial contact to:	
the initiation of complaint.....	14 days
the completion of the investigation.....	70 days
the response to the complainant.....	169 days

Total professional time spent on complaints.....	14.0 hours
on-site.....	3.6 hours
telephone.....	1.1 hours
write report.....	6.8 hours

Percent of sustained complaints.....	61%
Percent of unsustained complaints.....	39%

Action taken on cases	
None.....	54%
SOF.....	26%
SOD.....	18%
FUS.....	-
FS.....	-
Other.....	-

Action taken on sustained cases (12 cases)

None.....	33%
SOF.....	33%
SOD.....	33%
FUS.....	-
FS.....	-
Other.....	-

Action taken on sustained complaints with DLIs of 4 or 5

None.....	1 complaint
SOF.....	-
SOD.....	4 complaints

Percent of cases where evaluator believed that the investigator did not:

Resolve the case correctly.....	20%
Investigate all aspects of the case.....	22%
Interview residents when appropriate.....	59%
Interview family when appropriate and when family not the complainant.....	82%
Initiate the investigation in a timely fashion.....	13%

ROCHESTER AREA OFFICE

Number of cases in the sample.....	18
percent of sample.....	8%
Number of complaints in the sample.....	27
percent of sample.....	6%

Time from the initial contact to:	
the initiation of complaint.....	12 days
the completion of the investigation.....	59 days
the response to the complainant.....	90 days

Total professional time spent on complaints.....	8.2 hours
on-site.....	2.2 hours
telephone.....	0.1 hours
write report.....	3.2 hours

Percent of sustained complaints.....	37%
Percent of unsustained complaints.....	63%

Action taken on cases	
None.....	83%
SOF.....	-
SOD.....	6%
FUS.....	11%
FS.....	-
Other.....	-

Action taken on sustained cases (5 cases)	
None.....	60%
SOF.....	-
SOD.....	20%
FUS.....	20%
FS.....	-
Other.....	-

Action taken on sustained complaints with DLIs of 4 or 5	
None.....	-
SOF.....	-
SOD.....	4 complaints

Percent of cases where evaluator believed that the investigator <u>did</u> not:	
Resolve the case correctly.....	38%
Investigate all aspects of the case.....	58%
Interview residents when appropriate.....	45%
Interview family when appropriate and when family not the complainant.....	75%
Initiate the investigation in a timely fashion.....	6%

BUFFALO AREA OFFICE

Number of cases in the sample.....	34
percent of sample.....	16%
Number of complaints in the sample.....	83
percent of sample.....	18%

Time from the initial contact to:	
the initiation of complaint.....	17 days
the completion of the investigation.....	44 days
the response to the complainant.....	56 days

Total professional time spent on complaints.....	10.1 hours
on-site.....	4.6 hours
telephone.....	0.1 hours
write report.....	4.1 hours

Percent of sustained complaints.....	46%
Percent of unsustained complaints.....	54%

Action taken on cases

None.....	68%
SOF.....	18%
SOD.....	15%
FUS.....	-
FS.....	-
Other.....	-

Action taken on sustained cases (16 cases)

None.....	31%
SOF.....	38%
SOD.....	31%
FUS.....	-
FS.....	-
Other.....	-

Action taken on sustained complaints with DLIs of 4 or 5

None.....	6 complaints
SOF.....	-
SOD.....	7 complaints

Percent of cases where evaluator believed that the investigator did not:*

Resolve the case correctly.....	27%
Investigate all aspects of the case.....	25%
Interview residents when appropriate.....	0
Interview family when appropriate and when family not the complainant.....	0
Initiate the investigation in a timely fashion.....	26%

*Based on few cases because of lack of documentation

NORTHEAST AREA OFFICE

Number of cases in the sample.....	37
percent of sample.....	17%
Number of complaints in the sample.....	100
percent of sample.....	22%

Time from the initial contact to:

the initiation of complaint.....	11 days
the completion of the investigation.....	79 days
the response to the complainant.....	137 days

Total professional time spent on complaints.....	7.5 hours
on-site.....	3.3 hours
telephone.....	0.4 hours
write report.....	3.0 hours

Percent of sustained complaints.....	23%
Percent of unsustained complaints.....	76%

Action taken on cases

None.....	89%
SOF.....	3%
SOD.....	8%
FUS.....	-
FS.....	-
Other.....	-

Action taken on sustained cases (11 cases)

None.....	73%
SOF.....	-
SOD.....	27%
FUS.....	-
FS.....	-
Other.....	-

Action taken on sustained complaints with DLIs of 4 or 5

None.....	-
SOF.....	-
SOD.....	4 complaint

Percent of cases where evaluator believed that the investigator did not:

Resolve the case correctly.....	39%
Investigate all aspects of the case.....	44%
Interview residents when appropriate.....	75%
Interview family when appropriate and when family not the complainant.....	93%
Initiate the investigation in a timely fashion.....	27%

APPENDIX G

Public Law 2803-d

SECTION 2803-d., NEW YORK STATE PUBLIC HEALTH LAW*

2803-d. Reporting abuses of persons receiving care or services in residential health care facilities

1. The following persons are required to report in accordance with this section when they have reasonable cause to believe that a person receiving care or services in a residential health care facility has been physically abused, mistreated or neglected by other than a person receiving care or services in the facility: any operator or employee of such facility, any person who, or employee of any corporation, partnership, organization or other entity which, is under contract to provide patient care services in such facility, and any nursing home administrator, physician, medical examiner, coroner, physician's associate, specialist's assistant, osteopath, chiropractor, physical therapist, occupational therapist, registered professional nurse, licensed practical nurse, dentist, podiatrist, optometrist, pharmacist, psychologist, certified social worker, speech pathologist and audiologist.

2. In addition to those persons required to report suspected physical abuse, mistreatment or neglect of persons receiving care or services in residential health care facilities, any other person may make such a report if he or she has reasonable cause to believe that a person receiving care or services has been physically abused, mistreated or neglected in the facility.

3. Reports of suspected physical abuse, mistreatment or neglect made pursuant to this section shall be made immediately by telephone and in writing within forty-eight hours to the department. Written reports shall be made on forms supplied by the commissioner and shall include the following information: the identity of the person making the report and where he can be found; the name and address of the residential health care facility; the names of the operator and administrator of the facility, if known; the name of the subject of the alleged physical abuse, mistreatment or neglect, if known; the nature and extent of the physical abuse, mistreatment or neglect; the date, time and specific location of the occurrence; the names of next of kin or sponsors of the subject of the alleged physical abuse, mistreatment or neglect, if known; and any other information which the person making the report believes would be helpful to further the purposes of this section. Such written reports shall be admissible in evidence, consistent with the provisions of paragraph (f) of subdivision six of this section, in any actions or proceedings relating to physical abuse, mistreatment or neglect of persons receiving care or services in residential health care facilities. Written reports made other than on forms supplied by the commissioner which contain the information required herein shall be treated as if made on such forms.

4. Any person who in good faith makes a report pursuant to this section shall have immunity from any liability, civil or criminal, for having made such a report. For the purpose of any proceeding civil or criminal, the good faith of any person required to report instances of physical abuse, mistreatment or neglect of persons receiving care or services in residential health care facilities shall be presumed.

5. Notwithstanding the provisions of section two hundred thirty of this chapter, any licensed person who commits an act of physical abuse, mistreatment or neglect of a person receiving care or services in a residential health care facility and any licensed person required by this section to report an instance of suspected physical abuse, mistreatment or neglect of a person receiving care or services in a residential health care facility who fails to do so shall be guilty of unprofessional conduct in the practice of his or her profession.

6. (a) Upon receipt of a report made pursuant to this section the commissioner shall cause an investigation to be made of the allegations contained in the report. Notification of the receipt of a report shall be made immediately by the department to the appropriate district attorney if a prior request in writing has been made to the department by the district attorney. Prior to the completion of the investigation by the department, every reasonable effort shall be made to notify, personally or by certified mail, any person under investigation for having committed an act of physical abuse, mistreatment or neglect. The commissioner shall make a written determination, based on the findings of the investigation, of whether or not sufficient credible evidence exists to sustain the allegations contained in the report or would support a conclusion that a person not named in such report has committed an act of physical abuse, neglect or mistreatment. A copy of such written determination, together with a notice of the right to a hearing as provided in this subdivision, shall be sent by registered or certified mail to each person who the commissioner has determined has committed an act of physical abuse, neglect or mistreatment. A letter shall be sent to any other person alleged in such report to have committed such an act stating that a determination has been made that there is no sufficient evidence to sustain the allegations relating to such person. A copy of each such determination and letter shall be sent to the facility in which the alleged incident occurred.

(b) The commissioner may make a written determination, based on the findings of the investigation, that sufficient credible evidence exists to support a conclusion that a person required by this section to report suspected physical abuse, mistreatment or neglect has