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Val J. Halamandaris  
*President*

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Dear Administrator:

I am writing to encourage you to participate in the 2007 National Home and Hospice Care Survey (NHHCS) that will be administered by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS). The survey, conducted periodically since 1992, is designed to collect data on home health and hospice agencies, their services and staff, and their patients. These data provide useful information about our industry to agency owners, their suppliers, and health care planners.

The NHHCS allows timely and convenient data collection through its new computer-assisted data collection system. The survey will collect information on important topics such as immunization policies and practices, family and caregiver services, staff training, and patient health status and medications. As with all NCHS surveys, strict confidentiality will be maintained and only summary data will be published and made available to the public.

Some agencies sampled to participate in the 2007 NHHCS will also be asked to help in a first-ever national survey of home health aides—the National Home Health Aide Survey. This survey, which will be conducted by telephone during non-working hours, will ask sampled home health aides to share their experiences as direct care workers in the home health industry. Their feedback will help to inform policy changes and work practices that can promote retention of home health aides in, and attract others to, this field. If your agency is selected for this supplemental survey, I hope we can count on your cooperation.

Your participation in the 2007 National Home and Hospice Care Survey ensures that agencies like yours will be represented in the survey. Furthermore, your participation gives the home health industry greater information to address critical issues that affect fragile and chronically ill children and older adults who receive care through your agencies.

Again, I cannot over-emphasize the importance of this survey and your valuable input. I hope we can count on your support in this effort.

Sincerely,

Val J. Halamandaris  
President