Question: Do all eye drops need to be dated when opened?

Answer from Department of Aging and Disability Services:

Thank you for your inquiry on labeling of all eye drops when opened. There is no Federal or State regulation that specifies that all eye drop medications must be dated when opened. To determine whether the facility safely administers medications, surveyors will look at medications for labeling that contains at least the name and strength/concentration of the medication, as well as expiration date when applicable. However, if the facility has policies in place that require labeling of all opened eye drops then that is what the surveyors hold the facility accountable for.

40 TAC Chapter 19 (5) Labeling of drugs and biologicals. Drugs and biologicals used in the facility must be labeled in accordance with currently accepted professional principals and in compliance with the Texas State Board of Pharmacy Laws and Regulations, §291, including the appropriate accessory and cautionary instructions and the expiration date when applicable.

42 CFR 483.60(b)(2)(3)(d) Labeling of Drugs and Biologicals

This section requires facility compliance with currently accepted labeling requirements, even though the pharmacies are responsible for the actual labeling. Labeling of medications and biologicals dispensed by the pharmacy must be consistent with applicable federal and State requirements and currently accepted pharmaceutical principles and practices. Although medication delivery systems may vary, the medication label at a minimum includes the medication name (generic and/or brand) and strength, the expiration date when applicable, and typically includes the resident's name, route of administration, appropriate instructions and precautions (such as shake well, with meals, do not crush, special storage instructions).

For medications designed for multiple administrations (e.g., inhalers, eye drops), the label is affixed in a manner to promote administration to the resident for whom it was prescribed.