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**DIVISION OF QUALITY ASSURANCE
ADMINISTRATIVE MEMORANDUM NO. 01-01**

**TO: DDSO Directors
Voluntary Agency Executive Directors**

**FROM: Jan Abelseth 
Deputy Commissioner
Division of Quality Assurance**

DATE: March 29, 2001

SUBJECT: Use of Enclosed Canopy-style Bed Systems

The Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (OMRDD) has become aware that some provider agencies are using enclosed canopy bed systems for children and some adults with developmental disabilities. These systems are available commercially and are marketed as a device to prevent the user getting out of bed at night. The beds are surrounded by nylon netting with zipper openings. However, typically the zipper can only be opened from outside the bed, making it impossible for the bed's occupant to exit unassisted.

This is to advise all service providers that these beds are restrictive devices whose use is PROHIBITED in OMRDD-funded, operated or certified facilities. Provider agency staff must develop and implement alternative behavior management strategies for consumers currently using these beds. Use of the beds for any consumers must cease by May 31, 2001.

Questions about this memo can be addressed to me at (518) 474-3625.

JA3-11/sp

