



Center for Clinical Standards and Quality/Survey & Certification Group

Admin Info: 13-08-CLIA

DATE: November 30, 2012

TO: State Survey Agency Directors

FROM: Director
Survey and Certification Group

SUBJECT: State Agency (SA) Surveyor Training for Individualized Quality Control Plans (IQCP) and Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA) Consortium/Division Meetings

Memorandum Summary

- **IQCP SA Surveyor Training:** This training was initially planned for the spring of 2013 and is postponed until the fall of 2013. A more definitive schedule and details will be forthcoming to allow surveyors to plan their travel.
- **CLIA Consortium/Division Meetings for FY 2013:** Regions, SAs, Consortia, and Divisions may begin planning for their spring 2013 CLIA conferences.

Background and Discussion -- IQCP Training and Consortium/Division Meetings

The preliminary plan to conduct IQCP SA surveyor training was based on the completion of the Interpretive Guidelines (IGs) that incorporate an outline of the essential IQCP concepts. Our initial timeframe to conduct the training in spring of 2013 proved to be overambitious based on the number and scope of comments we received on the draft IGs.

In order to effectively deal with the large volume of comments, move the IGs into CMS clearance, and develop the training with the regional offices (ROs), we are postponing the SA training until the fall of 2013. Once we have addressed all of the comments, and training development can resume, we will have a better idea of the timing for the training. At that time, we will provide the ROs and SAs with a more specific plan and timeframes. This approach will then allow the ROs and SAs sufficient advance notice to block the time on their calendars and make travel plans.

Regarding the annual CLIA Consortium/Division conferences, we considered requesting that the ROs cancel these meetings for FY 2013 because they would have interfered with development and presentation of the IQCP SA training. Now that the training has been delayed, the ROs and SAs may proceed with their Consortium/Division conference planning.

Effective Date: Immediately. This update should be communicated with all survey and certification staff, their managers and the State/Regional Office training coordinators within 30 days of this memorandum.

Should you have any questions about the information in this memo, please contact Penny Meyers at penelope.meyers@cms.hhs.gov or Judy Yost at judith.yost@cms.hhs.gov

/s/

Thomas E. Hamilton

cc: Survey and Certification Regional Office Management
CLIA RO Consultants