



Center for Clinical Standards and Quality/Survey & Certification Group

Admin Info: 16-20-Hospitals

DATE: March 25, 2016
TO: State Survey Agency Directors
FROM: Director
Survey and Certification Group
SUBJECT: FY 2016 Patient Safety Initiative (PSI) Update

Memorandum Summary

- **PSI Surveys:** State Survey Agencies (SAs) have performed targeted PSI surveys in hospitals since 2011. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Survey & Certification Group FY 2016 Mission and Priority Document (MPD) included details to SAs regarding the annual requirements. PSI surveys assess compliance with the Conditions of Participation (CoP) for discharge planning, infection control, and quality assessment performance improvement (QAPI) in hospitals.
- **PSI Survey Activity is not Required in FY 2016:** Although PSI surveys were included as Tier 2 work in the MPD, they will not be required by SAs in FY 2016. CMS is working with contractors to develop online web-based versions of the worksheets. Since the revised worksheets are not ready for use at this time all PSI activity will be suspended until FY 2017.

Background

CMS began piloting the use of three hospital worksheets for SA surveyor use through the PSI in 2011. The worksheets were developed to improve the assessment of compliance with the hospital CoPs for QAPI, infection control, and discharge planning. This initiative was part of the larger Health & Human Services (HHS) initiative to reduce hospital acquired conditions, including healthcare associated infections, and preventable readmissions. In 2015, the patient safety worksheets became part of the standard survey process and were also used in PSI targeted surveys in selected hospitals.

Suspension of PSI Worksheet in FY 2016

CMS has been working collaboratively with contractors to develop web-based versions of the hospital patient safety worksheets. Along with the development of these new platforms, CMS is evaluating revisions to worksheet questions as well as form and functionality of the actual worksheets, based on surveyor feedback. Although work continues to progress, the development

process is not complete and the worksheets are not ready for distribution to SAs. In addition, CMS is evaluating the utilization of different sources of data for hospital selection.

The decision has been made to suspend PSI survey activity for FY 2016.

Contact: Questions regarding this memorandum and other PSI survey activity should be sent to pfp.scg@cms.hhs.gov

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

/s/

Thomas E. Hamilton

cc: Survey and Certification Regional Office Management