



Center for Clinical Standards and Quality/Survey & Certification Group

Admin Info: 17-08-ALL

DATE: February 10, 2017

TO: State Survey Agency Directors

FROM: Director
Survey and Certification Group

SUBJECT: Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 State Performance Standards System (SPSS) Guidance

Memorandum Summary

SPSS Framework: The three dimensions of frequency, quality, and enforcement continue to serve as the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' (CMS) framework to organize and measure the value associated with the survey process overall.

Background

The three-dimensional structure in the FY 2017 SPSS Guidance (frequency, quality and enforcement) provides a framework by which we can organize and measure the value associated with the survey process. In addition, these three dimensions structure our efforts to standardize, promote consistency and automate the data that are used in the State performance evaluation process.

Every year, CMS conducts a formal assessment of whether State Survey Agencies (SAs) fulfill their responsibilities, as outlined under the 1864 Agreement. We've conducted the annual review of the SPSS guidance and provided updates to address outstanding issues raised from the previous year.

Revisions to the SPSS Guidance

Based on recommendations from the CMS Regional Offices (ROs), CMS is revising the protocol guidance for FY 2017. We've modified the calculation under section F3.1. Frequency of Non-Nursing Home Surveys by adding clarifying guidance for scoring State performance related to the requirements for Non-Deemed Hospices. The performance measure should be scored as pass if the cumulative percentage from FY2015 to FY2017 is equal to 100 percent and all non-deemed hospices were surveyed between April 6, 2015 and April 6, 2018.

We appreciate your efforts to continuously improve the Medicare survey and certification program, in light of the many challenges that States and ROs face.

Contact: Please contact the SPSS team at SPSS_Team@cms.hhs.gov with any questions or concerns.

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

/s/

David R. Wright

Attachment(s):

- Attachment 1 – FY 2017 SPSS Guidance
- Attachment 2 – SPSS Dimensions Overview for FY 2017
- Attachment 3 – FY 2017 Frequency Measures-Discussion of Data
- Attachment 4 – Q1 Worksheet
- Attachment 5 – Q1 Random Sample Procedure document
- Attachment 6 – Q4 Template
- Attachment 7 – Q7 ACTS Report procedures for FY 2017
- Attachment 8 – Q8 Worksheet
- Attachment 9 – Q9 Worksheet
- Attachment 10 – E2 Procedures document
- Attachment 11 – E3 Report Procedure document
- Attachment 12 – Summary Score Sheet
- Attachment 13 – Rounding Issues
- Attachment 14 – Acronyms

cc: Survey and Certification Regional Office Management