



Center for Medicaid and State Operations

Ref: S&C-03-06

DATE: December 12, 2002

FROM: Director
Survey and Certification Group

SUBJECT: Conversion of Surveyor Minimum Qualifications Test (SMQT) From A Two-Day to A One-Day Test

TO: Associate Regional Administrators, DMSO
State Survey Agency Directors

The purpose of this memorandum is to inform regional offices and state survey agency personnel that the SMQT is being converted from two four-hour tests administered over two consecutive days to a one-day four-hour test.

Initially it was expected that individuals surveying certain program areas (e.g., dietary, pharmacy) would focus entirely on those parts of the survey, and probably not perform the general survey functions. This has not proven to be the case. Today more than 90 percent of surveyors perform all parts of the survey process. A review of the test content revealed that the knowledge needed to be a surveyor could be assessed just as effectively in one four-hour test. Reducing the SMQT to a one-day test will, therefore, retain the test's integrity while increasing its efficiency and cost effectiveness.

Effective Date

February 1, 2003

Training

This information should be shared with all survey and certification staff, surveyors, their managers, and the state/regional training coordinators.

/s/
Steven A. Pelovitz