

Hospices

Continued Efforts over the Past Years

Hospices

The IMPACT Act of 2014 requires that each hospice be surveyed not less frequently than every 36 months. Special funds have been appropriated by Congress to increase the frequency of hospice surveys. The IMPACT Act funds must be separately accounted. States should use their IMPACT funds first, and then use the Medicare S&C funds for expenses that exceed their IMPACT fund allocation. States may also request additional IMPACT funds if they are clearly exceeding their IMPACT allocation by contacting their RO budget contact.

The SA is expected to have a system in place for nursing home surveyors to report to the SA those nursing facilities which are providing hospice services to residents and any concerns they have about the provision of hospice services in a specific facility. SAs are expected to follow-up and initiate enforcement action against a hospice when they identify hospice non-compliance issues associated with care to nursing home residents who have elected the hospice benefit.

Before any State or Federal surveyor may serve on a survey team (except as a trainee) for a hospice survey, he/she must attend the Basic Hospice course.

Deemed Hospice Agencies

States will continue to be responsible for conducting two types of validation surveys for deemed Hospices: substantial allegation complaint surveys and representative sample validation surveys in FY2019.

Each SA should budget for one representative sample validation survey of its deemed Hospices from its standard allocation, unless it does not have any deemed Hospices located in its State.

Depending on the AOs' actual survey schedules, there may be States with deemed Hospices for which no representative sample validation survey can be assigned within the FY. Each month a sample of scheduled AO surveys is selected for validation. We will inform the SAs promptly if they have been assigned a validation survey. Some States with larger numbers of deemed Hospices have been designated to perform more of these representative sample validation surveys once they have completed the one survey provided for in the standard allocation. For these States, a supplemental budget allocation will be made for surveys completed beyond the first representative sample validation survey.