

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES  
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services  
7500 Security Boulevard, Mail Stop C2-21-16  
Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850



Center for Clinical Standards and Quality/Survey & Certification Group

Ref: S&C: 14-39-AO/RHCs

**DATE:** July 25, 2014

**TO:** State Survey Agency Directors

**FROM:** Director, Survey and Certification Group

**SUBJECT:** Approval of The Compliance Team's (TCT's) Rural Health Clinic (RHC) Accreditation Program

Memorandum Summary

- **Announcement:** The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announces its decision to recognize and approve TCT's Medicare RHC accreditation program for RHCs seeking to participate in the Medicare program via deemed status.

Section 1865(a) of the Social Security Act (the Act) permits providers and suppliers accredited by an approved Medicare accreditation program of a national accrediting body to be “*deemed*” to meet the applicable Medicare Conditions for that provider or supplier type. To receive approval, a national accrediting organization (AO) must demonstrate to CMS that its Medicare accreditation program requirements meet or exceed the applicable Medicare Conditions.

CMS reviewed TCT's application for approval of its RHC Medicare accreditation program in accordance with the requirements at 42 CFR 491. CMS' review included TCT's survey and accrediting processes as well as its health and safety standards. CMS' review found TCT's Medicare accreditation program for RHCs to meet or exceed the Medicare RHC Conditions for Certification.

CMS announced its approval of TCT's application as an approved Medicare accreditation program for RHCs in the July 18, 2014, *Federal Register*. This notice can be accessed at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2014-07-18/pdf/2014-16735.pdf>. This is an initial four-year approval effective July 18, 2014. Please note that approval of this Medicare accreditation program is limited to its use in assuring compliance with the Medicare RHC Conditions for Certification and does not apply to ownership, enrollment, or other Medicare requirements.

This approval provides RHCs with another Medicare accreditation option in addition to those available through the American Association for Accreditation of Ambulatory Surgery Facilities, Inc.

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We are working to make TCT available in the Automated Survey Processing Environment (ASPEN) for selection under the deemed status tab in the near future.

If you have any questions regarding this memorandum, please contact Cindy Melanson at 410-786-0310 or via E-Mail at [cindy.melanson@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:cindy.melanson@cms.hhs.gov).

**Effective Date:** Immediately

**Training:** The information contained in this announcement should be shared with relevant survey and certification staff, their managers, and the State/RO training coordinators within 30 days of this memorandum.

/s/

Thomas E. Hamilton

cc: Survey and Certification Regional Office Management