DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

7500 Security Boulevard
Baltimore, MD 21244-1850

Ref: S&C- 01-16

DATE: **May 3, 2001**

FROM: Director
Survey and Certification Group
Center for Medicaid and State Operations

SUBJECT: Sharing State Licensure Information

TO: Associate Regional Administrators, DMSO
State Survey Agency Directors

The purpose of this letter is to request that states share licensure information with the Medicare fiscal intermediary involving individuals or entities that require a license to operate in the state whose licensure request has been denied or whose existing license has not been renewed or withdrawn. This would include entities and individuals such as physicians who, although they are not surveyed for compliance with Conditions, nevertheless play an important role in the Medicare program by approving plans of care or treatment and ordering items and services for Medicare beneficiaries.

To promote the fiscal integrity of Federal health programs, it is essential that all health care professional licensure revocations, non-renewals and denials as well as other changes in the legal ability to practice a profession or operate a health care business are reported to any appropriate Medicare fiscal intermediary, carrier or other Medicare contractor within two weeks after the State takes action as the result of such a change. Notice of a change in licensure status or the legal ability to practice should be reported in writing (hard copy or electronically) and should contain the reason for the change in licensure status, as well as all information necessary to adequately identify the health professionals or entities in question.

Effective Date: This instruction is effective upon receipt.

Training: This request should be shared with all survey and certification staff, their managers and the state regional training coordinator.

/s/
Steven A. Pelovitz