



Center for Clinical Standards and Quality

Ref: S&C-12-06-Hospitals/CAHs/**REH REVISED**

DATE: *October 9, 2026*

TO: State Survey Agency Directors

FROM: Directors, Quality, Safety & Oversight Group (QSOG) and Survey & Operations Group (SOG)

SUBJECT: **REVISED:** Instructions for Completing Exhibit 286, Hospital/Critical Access Hospital (CAH)/*Rural Emergency Hospital (REH)* Database Worksheet

Memo Information:

Memo revision date: 2026-10-09

Original release date: 2011-12-02

Memorandum Summary

- **Revised Exhibit 286:** The Hospital/CAH/*REH* Database Worksheet, Exhibit 286 in the State Operations Manual (SOM), has been updated. Instructions for completion have been added to the SOM exhibit. *For the most current version of the 286 worksheet, please refer to the SOM Chapter 9 Exhibits.*
- **Internet Quality Improvement and Evaluation System (iQIES):** The Hospital/CAH/*REH* Database Worksheet has been updated to correspond to the latest version of SOM Exhibit 286. *For the most current version of the 286 worksheet, please refer to the Internet Quality Improvement and Evaluation System (iQIES).*
- **Completion of Worksheet:** Requirements for the completion of the Hospital/CAH/*REH* Database Worksheet as part of a certification/recertification kit remain unchanged.

Background:

The Hospital/CAH/REH Medicare Database Worksheet, Exhibit 286, is a tool used by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to gather detailed information about hospitals, CAHs and REHs participating in Medicare. The information collected on the worksheet is used to update CMS's survey and certification database.

Discussion:

Exhibit 286, the Hospital/CAH/*REH* Database Worksheet, has been updated *to streamline information collection by removing redundant or repetitive fields that are captured elsewhere in CMS database systems, as well as to add applicability to REHs.* Instructions for completing the Worksheet have also been updated, and have been added to the SOM. The *iQIES database* has also been updated to correspond to the revised Worksheet.

At this time, the *CMS* does not require hospitals, CAHs *or REHs* to complete the Worksheet at periodic intervals and submit it to a State Survey Agency (SA) or CMS. In the case of initial certifications of a deemed hospital or CAH, the SA and CMS *Location* will follow their current practice for obtaining the needed information from the hospital, CAH *or REH*, to complete the initial certification kit. For currently participating hospitals, CAHs *and REHs*, we are continuing the policy that the Worksheet must be completed by the SA for every full survey it conducts of a hospital, CAH *or REH*. Given that most hospitals and a significant number of CAHs are deemed, and that SAs conduct full surveys of deemed facilities infrequently, we acknowledge that the database Worksheet information in *iQIES* may not be up-to-date. We also acknowledge that some SAs, through their State authority, require all hospitals, CAHs *and REHs* to submit updated Worksheets periodically, and incorporate the information obtained in this manner into *iQIES*. We appreciate this assistance by the SAs.

Contact:

For questions or concerns relating to this memorandum, please contact QSOG_Hospital@cms.hhs.gov.

Effective Date:

Immediately. Please communicate to all appropriate staff within 30 days.

/s/

Karen L. Tritz
Director, Survey & Operations Group

Melissa C. Daly
Acting Director, Quality, Safety & Oversight Group

Resources to Improve Quality of Care:

Check out CMS's new Quality in Focus interactive video series. The series of 10 to 15-minute videos are tailored to provider types and aim to reduce the deficiencies most commonly cited during the CMS survey process, like infection control and accident prevention. Reducing these common deficiencies increases the quality of care for people with Medicare and Medicaid.

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- Recognize deficiencies
- Incorporate solutions into your facility's standards of care

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