

Psychiatric Hospitals

Continued Efforts over the Past Years

The majority of Medicare-certified psychiatric hospitals participate via deemed status, based on their accreditation by the Joint Commission (TJC). However, a small number of psychiatric hospitals have grandfathered partially deemed status, i.e., they are deemed for the regular hospital CoPs only by the American Osteopathic Association/Healthcare Facilities Accreditation Program (AOA/HFAP) or DNV GL Healthcare (DNV GL), leaving States or CMS contractors responsible for surveying them for the two special conditions. This practice stems from a time when no AO had an approved psychiatric hospital Medicare deeming program. Although CMS no longer permits AOA/HFAP or DNV GL to partially deem any new psychiatric hospital clients, we have grandfathered their existing psychiatric hospital clients. There are only a minor number (less than 10) of hospitals that remain partially deemed and partially under State jurisdiction. In addition, roughly 11% of all psychiatric hospitals are completely non-deemed.

CMS recognizes that, in the past, most States did not maintain surveyors with the psychiatric expertise to assess compliance with the two special conditions. CMS is currently developing psychiatric hospital basic online training which will be available to all surveyors to equip them with the knowledge and skills necessary to conduct the psychiatric hospital surveys. CMS will also combine the survey tags for the two special conditions for psychiatric hospitals into the same appendix as the survey tags for the regular hospitals. This will eliminate the need for separate survey teams. As a result, the State Agencies will assume the full capability to conduct initial, recertification and complaint surveys of the two special conditions in deemed and non-deemed psychiatric hospitals.

Also see <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Provider-Enrollment-and-Certification/CertificationandCompliance/PsychHospitals.html>.