

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: 13-52-AO

DATE: August 9, 2013

TO: State Survey Agency Directors

FROM: Director
Survey and Certification Group

SUBJECT: Approval of the Center for Improvement in Healthcare Quality's (CIHQ) Hospital Accreditation Program

Memorandum Summary

Announcement: The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announces its decision to recognize and approve CIHQ's Medicare hospital accreditation program for hospitals seeking to participate in the Medicare program via deemed status. Note that CIHQ's approved program does not apply to psychiatric hospitals or critical access hospitals (CAHs), which are different provider types for which there are separate accreditation programs.

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 CIHQ's application for approval of its hospital Medicare accreditation program in accordance with the requirements at 42 CFR 488.4 and 42 CFR 488.8. CMS' review included CIHQ's survey and accrediting processes as well as its health and safety standards. CMS' review found CIHQ's Medicare accreditation program for hospitals to meet or exceed the Medicare hospital Conditions of Participations.

CMS announced its approval of CIHQ's application as an approved Medicare accreditation program for hospitals in the July 26, 2013, *Federal Register*. This notice can be accessed at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2013-07-26/pdf/2013-18014.pdf>. This is an initial four-year approval effective July 26, 2013 through July 26, 2017. Please note that approval of this Medicare accreditation program is limited to its use in assuring compliance with the Medicare hospital Conditions of Participation and does not apply to ownership, enrollment, or other Medicare requirements. As a reminder, since hospitals, psychiatric hospitals and CAHs are separate types of

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providers, accreditation under CIHQ's hospital program may not be used to award deemed status to psychiatric hospitals or CAHs.

This approval provides hospitals with another Medicare accreditation option in addition to those available through the American Osteopathic Association/Healthcare Facilities Accreditation Program, Det Norske Veritas Healthcare, and The Joint Commission.

We are working to make CIHQ 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.

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 coordinator.

/s/

Thomas E. Hamilton

cc: Survey and Certification Regional Office Management