

(ii) SNFs and dually participating SNF/NFs; and

(iii) Any other facilities subject to a HCFA validation survey or HCFA review of the State's findings.

(4) The provisions of part 431 of this chapter apply when a non-State operated Medicaid NF, which has not received a HCFA validation survey or HCFA review of the State's findings, requests a hearing on the State's denial of participation, termination of provider agreement, or certification of noncompliance leading to an alternative remedy, except State monitoring.

(f) *Provider agreements.* HCFA or the Medicaid agency may execute a provider agreement when a prospective provider is in substantial compliance with all the requirements for participation for a SNF or NF, respectively.

(g) *Special rules for Federal validation surveys.* (1) HCFA may make independent certifications of a NF's, SNF's, or dually participating facility's non-compliance based on a HCFA validation survey.

(2) HCFA issues the notice of actions affecting facilities for which HCFA did validation surveys.

(3) For non-State-operated NFs and non-State-operated dually participating facilities, any disagreement between HCFA and the State regarding the timing and choice of remedies is resolved in accordance with § 488.452.

(4) Either HCFA or the survey agency, at HCFA's option, may revisit the facility to ensure that corrections are made.

[59 FR 56238, Nov. 10, 1994; 60 FR 50118, Sept. 28, 1995]

§ 488.331 Informal dispute resolution.

(a) *Opportunity to refute survey findings.* (1) For non-Federal surveys, the State must offer a facility an informal opportunity, at the facility's request, to dispute survey findings upon the facility's receipt of the official statement of deficiencies.

(2) For Federal surveys, HCFA offers a facility an informal opportunity, at the facility's request, to dispute survey findings upon the facility's receipt of the official statement of deficiencies.

(b)(1) Failure of the State or HCFA, as appropriate, to complete informal

dispute resolution timely cannot delay the effective date of any enforcement action against the facility.

(2) A facility may not seek a delay of any enforcement action against it on the grounds that informal dispute resolution has not been completed before the effective date of the enforcement action.

(c) If a provider is subsequently successful, during the informal dispute resolution process, at demonstrating that deficiencies should not have been cited, the deficiencies are removed from the statement of deficiencies and any enforcement actions imposed solely as a result of those cited deficiencies are rescinded.

(d) *Notification.* Upon request, HCFA does and the State must provide the facility with written notification of the informal dispute resolution process.

§ 488.332 Investigation of complaints of violations and monitoring of compliance.

(a) *Investigation of complaints.* (1) The State survey agency must establish procedures and maintain adequate staff to investigate complaints of violations of participation requirements.

(2) The State survey agency takes appropriate precautions to protect a complainant's anonymity and privacy, if possible.

(3) If arrangements have been made with other State components for investigation of complaints, the State must have a means of communicating information among appropriate entities, and the State survey agency retains responsibility for the investigation process.

(4) If, after investigating a complaint, the State has reason to believe that an identifiable individual neglected or abused a resident, or misappropriated a resident's property, the State survey agency must act on the complaint in accordance with § 488.335.

(b) *On-site monitoring.* The State survey agency conducts on-site monitoring on an as necessary basis when—

(1) A facility is not in substantial compliance with the requirements and is in the process of correcting deficiencies;