

§ 488.64 Remote facility variances for utilization review requirements.

(a) As used in this section:

(1) An "available" individual is one who:

(i) Possesses the necessary professional qualifications;

(ii) Is not precluded from participating by reason of financial interest in any such facility or direct responsibility for the care of the patients being reviewed or, in the case of a skilled nursing facility, employment by the facility; and

(iii) Is not precluded from effective participation by the distance between the facility and his residence, office, or other place of work. An individual whose residence, office, or other place of work is more than approximately one hour's travel time from the facility shall be considered precluded from effective participation.

(2) "Adjacent facility" means a health care facility located within a 50-mile radius of the facility which requests a variance.

(b) The Secretary may grant a requesting facility a variance from the time frames set forth in §§ 405.1137(d) of this chapter and 482.30 as applicable, within which reviews all of cases must be commenced and completed, upon a showing satisfactory to the Secretary that the requesting facility has been unable to meet one or more of the requirements of § 405.1137 of this chapter or § 482.30 of this chapter, as applicable, by reason of insufficient medical and other professional personnel available to conduct the utilization review required by § 405.1137 of this chapter or § 482.30 of this chapter, as applicable.

(c) The request for variance shall document the requesting facility's inability to meet the requirements for which a variance is requested and the facility's good faith efforts to comply with the requirements contained in § 405.1137 of this chapter or § 482.30 of this chapter, as applicable.

(d) The request shall include an assurance by the requesting facility that it will continue its good faith efforts to meet the requirements contained in § 405.1137 of this chapter or § 482.30 of this chapter, as applicable.

(e) A revised utilization review plan for the requesting facility shall be sub-

mitted concurrently with the request for a variance. The revised plan shall specify the methods and procedures which the requesting facility will use, if a variance is granted, to assure:

(1) That effective and timely control will be maintained over the utilization of services; and

(2) That reviews will be conducted so as to improve the quality of care provided to patients.

(f) The request for a variance shall include:

(1) The name, location, and type (e.g., hospital, skilled nursing facility) of the facility for which the variance is requested;

(2) The total number of patient admissions and average daily patient census at the facility within the previous six months;

(3) The total number of title XVIII and title XIX patient admissions and the average daily patient census of title XVIII and title XIX patients in the facility within the previous six months;

(4) As relevant to the request, the names of all physicians on the active staff of the facility and the names of all other professional personnel on the staff of the facility, or both;

(5) The name, location, and type of each adjacent facility (e.g., hospital, skilled nursing facility);

(6) The distance and average travel time between the facility and each adjacent facility;

(7) As relevant to the request, the location of practice of available physicians and the estimated number of other available professional personnel, or both (see paragraph (a)(1)(iii) of this section);

(8) Documentation by the facility of its attempt to obtain the services of available physicians or other professional personnel, or both; and

(9) A statement of whether a PRO exists in the area where the facility is located.

(g) The Secretary shall promptly notify the facility of the action taken on the request. Where a variance is in effect, the validation of utilization review pursuant to § 405.1137 of this chapter or § 482.30 shall be made with reference to the revised utilization review

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plan submitted with the request for variance.

(h) The Secretary, in granting a variance, will specify the period for which the variance has been granted; such period will not exceed one year. A request for a renewal shall be submitted not later than 30 days prior to the expiration of the variance and shall contain all information required by paragraphs (c), (d), and (f) of this section. Renewal of the variance will be contingent upon the facility's continuing to meet the provisions of this section.

[40 FR 30818, July 23, 1975. Redesignated at 42 FR 52826, Sept. 30, 1977; 51 FR 22041, June 17, 1986; 51 FR 27847, Aug. 4, 1986; 51 FR 43197, Dec. 1, 1986. Redesignated and amended at 53 FR 23100, June 17, 1988]

§ 488.68 State Agency responsibilities for OASIS collection and data base requirements.

As part of State agency survey responsibilities, the State agency or other entity designated by HCFA has overall responsibility for fulfilling the following requirements for operating the OASIS system:

(a) *Establish and maintain an OASIS database.* The State agency or other entity designated by HCFA must—

(1) Use a standard system developed or approved by HCFA to collect, store, and analyze data;

(2) Conduct basic system management activities including hardware and software maintenance, system back-up, and monitoring the status of the database; and

(3) Obtain HCFA approval before modifying any parts of the HCFA standard system including, but not limited to, standard HCFA-approved—

(i) OASIS data items;

(ii) Record formats and validation edits; and

(iii) Agency encoding and transmission methods.

(b) *Analyze and edit OASIS data.* The State agency or other entity designated by HCFA must—

(1) Upon receipt of data from an HHA, edit the data as specified by HCFA and ensure that the HHA resolves errors within the limits specified by HCFA;

(2) At least monthly, make available for retrieval by HCFA all edited OASIS

records received during that period, according to formats specified by HCFA, and correct and retransmit previously rejected data as needed; and

(3) Analyze data and generate reports as specified by HCFA.

(c) *Ensure accuracy of OASIS data.* The State agency must audit the accuracy of the OASIS data through the survey process.

(d) *Restrict access to OASIS data.* The State agency or other entity designated by HCFA must do the following:

(1) Ensure that access to data is restricted except for the transmission of data and reports to—

- (i) HCFA;
- (ii) The State agency component that conducts surveys for purposes related to this function; and
- (iii) Other entities if authorized by HCFA.

(2) Ensure that patient identifiable OASIS data is released only to the extent that it is permitted under the Privacy Act of 1974.

(e) *Provide training and technical support for HHAs.* The State agency or other entity designated by HCFA must—

(1) Instruct each HHA on the administration of the data set, privacy/confidentiality of the data set, and integration of the OASIS data set into the facility's own record keeping system;

(2) Instruct each HHA on the use of software to encode and transmit OASIS data to the State;

(3) Specify to a facility the method of transmission of data to the State, and instruct the facility on this method.

(4) Monitor each HHA's ability to transmit OASIS data.

(5) Provide ongoing technical assistance and general support to HHAs in implementing the OASIS reporting requirements specified in the conditions of participation for home health agencies; and

(6) Carry out any other functions as designated by HCFA necessary to maintain OASIS data on the standard State system.

[64 FR 3763, Jan. 25, 1999]

SUBPART C—SURVEY FORMS AND PROCEDURES