

§ 488.6

§ 488.6 Other national accreditation programs for hospitals and other providers and suppliers.

(a) In accordance with the requirements of this subpart, a national accreditation program for hospitals; psychiatric hospitals; SNFs; HHAs; ASCs; RHCs; CORFs; hospices; screening mammography services; critical access hospitals; or clinic, rehabilitation agency, or public health agency providers of outpatient physical therapy, occupational therapy or speech pathology services may provide reasonable assurance to HCFA that it requires the providers or suppliers it accredits to meet requirements that are at least as stringent as the Medicare conditions when taken as a whole. In such a case, HCFA may deem the providers or suppliers the program accredits to be in compliance with the appropriate Medicare conditions. These providers and suppliers are subject to validation surveys under § 488.7 of this subpart. HCFA will publish notices in the FEDERAL REGISTER in accordance with § 488.8(b) identifying the programs and deeming authority of any national accreditation program and the providers or suppliers it accredits. The notice will describe how the accreditation organization's accreditation program provides reasonable assurance that entities accredited by the organization meet Medicare requirements. (See § 488.5 for requirements concerning hospitals accredited by JCAHO or AOA.)

(b) Eligibility for Medicaid participation can be established through Medicare deemed status for providers and suppliers that are not required under Medicaid regulations to comply with any requirements other than Medicare participation requirements for that provider or supplier type.

(c)(1) A provider or supplier deemed to meet program requirements under paragraph (a) of this section must authorize its accreditation organization to release to HCFA and the State survey agency a copy of its most current accreditation survey, together with any information related to the survey that HCFA may require (including corrective action plans).

(2) HCFA may determine that a provider or supplier does not meet the Medicare conditions on the basis of its

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own investigation of the accreditation survey or any other information related to the survey.

(3) Upon written request, HCFA may disclose the survey and information related to the survey—

(i) Of any HHA; or

(ii) Of any other provider or supplier specified at paragraph (a) of this section if the accreditation survey and related survey information relate to an enforcement action taken by HCFA.

[58 FR 61840, Nov. 23, 1993, as amended at 62 FR 46037, Aug. 29, 1997]

§ 488.7 Validation survey.

(a) *Basis for survey.* HCFA may require a survey of an accredited provider or supplier to validate its organization's accreditation process. These surveys will be conducted on a representative sample basis, or in response to substantial allegations of non-compliance.

(1) When conducted on a representative sample basis, the survey is comprehensive and addresses all Medicare conditions or is focused on a specific condition or conditions.

(2) When conducted in response to a substantial allegation, the State survey agency surveys for any condition that HCFA determines is related to the allegations.

(3) If the State survey agency substantiates a deficiency and HCFA determines that the provider or supplier is out of compliance with any Medicare condition, the State survey agency conducts a full Medicare survey.

(b) *Effect of selection for survey.* A provider or supplier selected for a validation survey must—

(1) Authorize the validation survey to take place; and

(2) Authorize the State survey agency to monitor the correction of any deficiencies found through the validation survey.

(c) *Refusal to cooperate with survey.* If a provider or supplier selected for a validation survey fails to comply with the requirements specified in paragraph (b) of this section, it will no longer be deemed to meet the Medicare conditions but will be subject to full review by the State survey agency in accordance with § 488.11 and may be subject to termination of its provider

agreement under § 489.53 of this chapter.

(d) *Consequences of finding of non-compliance.* If a validation survey results in a finding that the provider or supplier is out of compliance with one or more Medicare conditions, the provider or supplier will no longer be deemed to meet any Medicare conditions. Specifically, the provider or supplier will be subject to the participation and enforcement requirements applied to all providers or suppliers that are found out of compliance following a State agency survey under § 488.24 and to full review by a State agency survey in accordance with § 488.11 and may be subject to termination of the provider agreement under § 439.53 of this chapter and any other applicable intermediate sanctions and remedies.

(e) *Reinstating effect of accreditation.* An accredited provider or supplier will again be deemed to meet the Medicare conditions in accordance with this section if—

(1) It withdraws any prior refusal to authorize its accreditation organization to release a copy of the provider's or supplier's current accreditation survey;

(2) It withdraws any prior refusal to allow a validation survey; and

(3) HCFA finds that the provider or supplier meets all the applicable Medicare conditions. If HCFA finds that an accredited facility meets the Life Safety Code Standard by virtue of a plan of correction, the State survey agency will continue to monitor the facility until it is in compliance with the Life Safety Code Standard.

[58 FR 61840, Nov. 23, 1993]

§ 488.8 Federal review of accreditation organizations.

(a) *Review and approval of national accreditation organization.* HCFA's review and evaluation of a national accreditation organization will be conducted in accordance with, but will not necessarily be limited to, the following general criteria—

(1) The equivalency of an accreditation organization's accreditation requirements of an entity to the comparable HCFA requirements for the entity;

(2) The organization's survey process to determine—

(i) The composition of the survey team, surveyor qualifications, and the ability of the organization to provide continuing surveyor training;

(ii) The comparability of survey procedures to those of State survey agencies, including survey frequency, and the ability to investigate and respond appropriately to complaints against accredited facilities;

(iii) The organization's procedures for monitoring providers or suppliers found by the organization to be out of compliance with program requirements. These monitoring procedures are to be used only when the organization identifies noncompliance. If noncompliance is identified through validation surveys, the State survey agency monitors corrections as specified at § 488.7(b)(3);

(iv) The ability of the organization to report deficiencies to the surveyed facilities and respond to the facility's plan of correction in a timely manner;

(v) The ability of the organization to provide HCFA with electronic data in ASCII comparable code and reports necessary for effective validation and assessment of the organization survey process;

(vi) The adequacy of staff and other resources;

(vii) The organization's ability to provide adequate funding for performing required surveys; and

(viii) The organization's policies with respect to whether surveys are announced or unannounced; and

(3) The accreditation organization's agreement to provide HCFA with a copy of the most current accreditation survey together with any other information related to the survey as HCFA may require (including corrective action plans).

(b) *Notice and comment.* (1) HCFA will publish a proposed notice in the FEDERAL REGISTER whenever it contemplates approving an accreditation organization's application for deeming authority. The proposed notice will specify the basis for granting approval of deeming authority and the types of providers and suppliers accredited by