

§ 493.561 Denial of application or re-application.

(a) *Reconsideration of denial.* (1) If HCFA denies a request for approval, an accreditation organization or State licensure program may request, within 60 days of the notification of denial, that HCFA reconsider its original application or application for renewal, in accordance with part 488, subpart D.

(2) If the accreditation organization or State licensure program requests a reconsideration of HCFA's determination to deny its request for approval or reapproval, it may not submit a new application until HCFA issues a final reconsideration determination.

(b) *Resubmittal of a request for approval—accreditation organization.* An accreditation organization may resubmit a request for approval if a final reconsideration determination is not pending and the accreditation program meets the following conditions:

(1) It has revised its accreditation program to address the rationale for denial of its previous request.

(2) It demonstrates that it can provide reasonable assurance that its accredited facilities meet condition-level requirements.

(3) It resubmits the application in its entirety.

(c) *Resubmittal of request for approval—State licensure program.* The State licensure program may resubmit a request for approval if a final reconsideration determination is not pending and it has taken the necessary action to address the rationale for any previous denial.

§ 493.563 Validation inspections—Basis and focus.

(a) *Basis for validation inspection—(1) Laboratory with a certificate of accreditation.* (i) HCFA or a HCFA agent may conduct an inspection of an accredited laboratory that has been issued a certificate of accreditation on a representative sample basis or in response to a substantial allegation of noncompliance.

(ii) HCFA uses the results of these inspections to validate the accreditation organization's accreditation process.

(2) *Laboratory in a State with an approved State licensure program.* (i) HCFA or a HCFA agent may conduct an in-

spection of any laboratory in a State with an approved State licensure program on a representative sample basis or in response to a substantial allegation of noncompliance.

(ii) The results of these inspections are used to validate the appropriateness of the exemption of that State's licensed or approved laboratories from CLIA program requirements.

(b) *Validation inspection conducted on a representative sample basis.* (1) If HCFA or a HCFA agent conducts a validation inspection on a representative sample basis, the inspection is comprehensive, addressing all condition-level requirements, or it may be focused on a specific condition-level requirement.

(2) The number of laboratories sampled is sufficient to allow a reasonable estimate of the performance of the accreditation organization or State.

(c) *Validation inspection conducted in response to a substantial allegation of noncompliance.* (1) If HCFA or a HCFA agent conducts a validation inspection in response to a substantial allegation of noncompliance, the inspection focuses on any condition-level requirement that HCFA determines to be related to the allegation.

(2) If HCFA or a HCFA agent substantiates a deficiency and determines that the laboratory is out of compliance with any condition-level requirement, HCFA or a HCFA agent conducts a full CLIA inspection.

(d) *Inspection of operations and offices.* As part of the validation review process, HCFA may conduct an onsite inspection of the operations and offices to verify the following:

(1) The accreditation organization's representations and to assess the accreditation organization's compliance with its own policies and procedures.

(2) The State's representations and to assess the State's compliance with its own policies and procedures, including verification of State enforcement actions taken on the basis of validation inspections performed by HCFA or a HCFA agent.

(e) *Onsite inspection of an accreditation organization.* An onsite inspection of an accreditation organization may include, but is not limited to, the following:

(1) A review of documents.

(2) An audit of meetings concerning the accreditation process.

(3) Evaluation of accreditation inspection results and the accreditation decision-making process.

(4) Interviews with the accreditation organization's staff.

(f) *Onsite inspection of a State licensure program.* An onsite inspection of a State licensure program office may include, but is not limited to, the following:

(1) A review of documents.

(2) An audit of meetings concerning the licensure or approval process.

(3) Evaluation of State inspection results and the licensure or approval decision-making process.

(4) Interviews with State employees.

§ 493.565 Selection for validation inspection—laboratory responsibilities.

A laboratory selected for a validation inspection must do the following:

(a) Authorize its accreditation organization or State licensure program, as applicable, to release to HCFA or a HCFA agent, on a confidential basis, a copy of the laboratory's most recent full, and any subsequent partial inspection.

(b) Authorize HCFA or a HCFA agent to conduct a validation inspection.

(c) Provide HCFA or a HCFA agent with access to all facilities, equipment, materials, records, and information that HCFA or a HCFA agent determines have a bearing on whether the laboratory is being operated in accordance with the requirements of this part, and permit HCFA or a HCFA agent to copy material or require the laboratory to submit material.

(d) If the laboratory possesses a valid certificate of accreditation, authorize HCFA or a HCFA agent to monitor the correction of any deficiencies found through the validation inspection.

§ 493.567 Refusal to cooperate with validation inspection.

(a) *Laboratory with a certificate of accreditation.* (1) A laboratory with a certificate of accreditation that refuses to cooperate with a validation inspection by failing to comply with the requirements in § 493.565—

(i) Is subject to full review by HCFA or a HCFA agent, in accordance with this part; and

(ii) May be subject to suspension, revocation, or limitation of its certificate of accreditation under this part.

(2) A laboratory with a certificate of accreditation is again deemed to meet the condition-level requirements by virtue of its accreditation when the following conditions exist:

(i) The laboratory withdraws any prior refusal to authorize its accreditation organization to release a copy of the laboratory's current accreditation inspection, PT results, or notification of any adverse actions resulting from PT failure.

(ii) The laboratory withdraws any prior refusal to allow a validation inspection.

(iii) HCFA finds that the laboratory meets all the condition-level requirements.

(b) *CLIA-exempt laboratory.* If a CLIA-exempt laboratory fails to comply with the requirements specified in § 493.565, HCFA notifies the State of the laboratory's failure to meet the requirements.

§ 493.569 Consequences of a finding of noncompliance as a result of a validation inspection.

(a) *Laboratory with a certificate of accreditation.* If a validation inspection results in a finding that the accredited laboratory is out of compliance with one or more condition-level requirements, the laboratory is subject to—

(1) The same requirements and survey and enforcement processes applied to laboratories that are not accredited and that are found out of compliance following an inspection under this part; and

(2) Full review by HCFA, in accordance with this part; that is, the laboratory is subject to the principal and alternative sanctions in § 493.1806.

(b) *CLIA-exempt laboratory.* If a validation inspection results in a finding that a CLIA-exempt laboratory is out of compliance with one or more condition-level requirements, HCFA directs the State to take appropriate enforcement action.