



Center for Clinical Standards and Quality/Survey & Certification Group

Admin Info: 16-06-Hospice

DATE: October 16, 2015

TO: State Survey Agency Directors

FROM: Director
Survey and Certification Group

SUBJECT: Hospice Contract Surveys FY2016

Memorandum Summary

- The IMPACT Act of 2014 mandates that Medicare certified hospice agencies be surveyed no less frequently than every 36 months.
- To ensure timely compliance and the most efficient use of resources, a national contractor has been deployed to assist those States with the greatest need for hospice survey assistance in order to comply with the IMPACT Act by April 6, 2018.
- Regional Offices (ROs) have been asked to work with their respective States to identify those hospice agencies by States or Territories that will require assistance from the national contractor during FY 2016.

Background

The IMPACT Act of 2014, requires that each Medicare certified hospice be surveyed no less frequently than every 36 months. Prior to the IMPACT Act, the Mission and Priority Document (MPD) required that non-deemed hospice recertification surveys be conducted every six years. The IMPACT Act provides the statutory basis to move hospice surveys from Tier 3 to Tier 1, through 2025.

Discussion

To assist States in this transition, a national contractor provided a limited amount of survey work starting in the second half of FY 2015. The FY2015 surveys performed by the contractor were distributed on a per request basis. The contractor conducted 54 surveys and revisits in eight States and one territory. Also during FY 2015, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) offered additional Hospice Basic Surveyor Training courses, via webinar, to ensure sufficient access to State surveyors hired to address the additional resource requirements associated with the IMPACT Act.

Assistance from the contractor for hospice recertification surveys will be available throughout FY 2016. The contractor is scheduled to conduct 54 surveys and revisits at this time. Requests for contractor assistance will be coordinated by the ROs for their respective States based on their review of each State's need and strategy for achieving compliance with the IMPACT Act by April, 2018 and for maintaining that compliance after April 18, 2018.

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ROs are asked to contact their States as soon as possible and submit the names of hospice agencies, by State or Territory, for which contractor surveys are requested. These lists should be forwarded to Annette Snyder in the Survey and Certification Group no later than November 1, 2015. If more surveys are requested than are available, surveys will be distributed proportionately, based on the number of hospice agencies in the requesting States/Territories after discussion with associated ROs and recognition of any individual State or Territory with a greater need. Hospices selected for contract survey assistance should not: 1) require a Life Safety Code Survey (i.e. those hospices that have their own inpatient facility, or 2) are deemed.

Three Hospice Basic Surveyor Training courses are scheduled for in FY 2016 for November, 2015, and March and August, 2016.

Contact: For any questions regarding this memorandum please contact Annette Snyder at Annette.Snyder@cms.hhs.gov or 410-786-0807.

Effective Date: Immediately. This information should be communicated with all survey and certification staff, their managers and the State/Regional Office training coordinators within 30 days of this memorandum.

/s/

Thomas E. Hamilton

cc: Survey and Certification Regional Office Management