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## Hospice Providers

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A Hospice provider is an agency that furnishes palliative care (relief of pain and uncomfortable symptoms) as opposed to curative care. In addition, hospice care addresses the physical, psychological, social, and spiritual needs of the patient, as well as the psychological and social needs of the family and/or caregivers. The emphasis of the hospice program is on keeping the hospice patient at home with family and friends for as long as possible.

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## Hospice Federal and State Requirements

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In Idaho, Hospice providers are governed by federal certification regulations. Idaho has no state licensure rules for Hospice providers. Applicable federal certification requirements are found in the Centers for Medicare/Medicaid Services (CMS) State Operations Manual (SOM) [Chapter 2, § 2080](#), [Appendix M](#), and [Appendix Q](#). Below is a brief overview of the regulations. Please refer to the SOM and Appendices for additional information. Hospice Final Rule [42 CFR 418](#).



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### 1. **Appendix M – Guidance to Surveyors: Hospice**

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CMS SOM [Appendix M](#) includes the federal statutory designation, the regulatory language, and interpretive guidance. The regulations are divided into Conditions of Participation (CoPs, or Conditions) and standard level requirements. CoPs represent the overall services and supports a Hospice must provide. Under each CoP are the standard level regulations associated with that CoP. A provider is required to be in compliance with all applicable CoPs at all times. The purpose of the interpretive guidance is to clarify the information that is relevant to specific requirements.

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## Appendix Q – Guidelines for Determining Immediate Jeopardy

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[Appendix Q](#) provides guidance specific to situations of Immediate Jeopardy. Jeopardy is defined as a situation in which the entity's noncompliance "...has caused, or is likely to cause, serious injury, harm, impairment, or death to a resident receiving care in a facility".

The three components of Immediate Jeopardy are *Harm*, *Immediacy*, and *Culpability*. Harm may be actual or potential; immediacy means the harm is likely to occur in the very near future if immediate action is not taken; and culpability asks if the entity knew or should have known about the situation.

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## Additional Information

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For additional information regarding the Hospice program, please visit the CMS [Hospice Center](#) site.

- ❑ [Application Process](#)
- ❑ [Survey Process](#)
- ❑ [Change of Ownership Process](#)
- ❑ [Change of Location Process](#)
- ❑ [Multiple Locations Process](#)
- ❑ [Expansion of Service Area](#)
- ❑ [Hospice House Overview/Application Process](#)
- ❑ [Waiver Request – Ancillary Services](#)
- ❑ [Waiver Request – Direct Nursing Services](#)
- ❑ [Web Resources](#)