

State of Idaho

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND WELFARE

Division of Medicaid

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INFORMATIONAL LETTER #2002-4

DATE:

March 11, 2002

TO:

ALL CRITICAL ACCESS HOSPITALS

FROM:

DEBBY RANSOM, R.N., R.H.I.I., Chief

Bureau of Facility Standards

SUBJECT:

EFFECTIVE DATE OF MEDICARE APPROVAL OF THE AMERICAN

OSTEOPATHIC ASSOCIATION DEEMING AUTHORITY FOR CRITICAL

ACCESS HOSPITAL (CAHS)

The purpose of this letter is to notify Critical Access Hospitals that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services have approved the American Osteopathic Association's accreditation program for Critical Access Hospitals.

Should you have any questions, please contact Sylvia Creswell, Supervisor of Non Long Term Care at 208/334-6626

DEBBY RANSOM, R.N., R.H.I.T, Chief

Bureau of Facility Standards

DR/nah Enclosure

cc: Idaho Hospital Association

Date:

November 7, 2001

From:

Director

Survey & Certification Group

Subject:

Effective Date of Medicare Approval of the American Osteopathic

Association (AOA) Deeming Authority for Critical Access Hospitals

(CAHs)

To:

Associate Regional Administrators

Division of Medicaid and State Operations

State Survey Agency Directors

This memorandum announces the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Service's recognition of AOA's accreditation program for CAHs which was found to meet or exceed the Medicare conditions of participation (CoPs) for CAHs. CAHs accredited by AOA under its deemed status CAH program that are seeking to participate in Medicare are deemed to meet Medicare CAH CoPs.

Section 1865 (b) of the Social Security Act (the Act) permits providers and suppliers, including CAHs, that are accredited by an approved national accrediting body to be "deemed" to meet Medicare Conditions of Coverage or Participation. To be approved, accreditation organizations must demonstrate that their requirements are at least as stringent as Medicare requirements taken as a whole. In making these determinations, CMS reviews each organization's survey and accrediting processes as well as its health and safety standards to determine that they meet or exceed Medicare requirements.

CMS announced AOA's approval as a deemed status accreditation program for CAHs in the September 28, 2001, Federal Register (copy attached). There is a 90-day waiting period before the AOA's CAH surveys may qualify for Medicare participation. Thus, the earliest date deemed status is available to AOA accredited CAHs is December 27, 2001. AOA deeming authority for CAHs is limited to the conditions of participation and does not apply to ownership, enrollment, or other Medicare requirements.

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CAHs accredited by AOA should be approved when they meet all Medicare requirements, but no earlier than December 27, 2001. The RO should not go behind AOA to test for possible standard level deficiencies except for substantial allegation of non-compliance. Thus, the effective date of the Medicare approval will the be the latest of the:

- 1) accreditation for Medicare date;
- 2) last day of the Medicare survey by AOA on or after December 27, 2001, or
- 3) satisfaction of Medicare enrollment requirements.

If you have questions regarding this memorandum, please contact Irene Dustin of my staff by telephone on 410-786-0495 or via E-mail at idustin@cms.hhs.gov.

Sincerely,

/s/ Steven A. Pelovitz

Attachment

ce: Frank Sokolik
Sandy Haydock
Helaine Jeffers
Rachael Weinstein
SCG Managers
Technical Review Team