



Center for Clinical Standards and Quality /Survey & Certification Group

Admin Info: 14-01-HHA

DATE: October 25, 2013

TO: State Survey Agency Directors

FROM: Director
Survey and Certification Group

SUBJECT: Fiscal Year 2014 (FY14) Prioritization of Home Health Agencies (HHAs) for Survey

Memorandum Summary

- **Regional Office will send one list:** Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Regional Office (CMS/RO) will soon forward one list of Home Health Agencies (HHAs) for potential surveys to the State Survey Agencies (SAs).
- **Tier 1 List:** The list, Tier 1 Home Health, contains the names of HHAs that have not been surveyed for 24 months or longer, according to our records. These HHAs will be due for survey during FY14.

The Tier 1 Home Health List for FY2014 is attached. Please note that the Home Health List is State-level reports and does not differentiate HHAs by individual districts or regions within States.

If a non-accredited, non-deemed agency does not appear on the list but meets the criteria for survey during FY2014, the State must add the HHA to the list. If an HHA is on the Tier 1 is deemed through an accreditation organization, and thus not applicable for State survey, please notify Pat Sevast at Patricia.Sevast@cms.hhs.gov.

Tier 1 Home Health List

For your convenience, the attached Tier 1 Home Health List contains the names of the HHAs that currently constitute CMS' Tier 1 priority for survey in the next 12 months – i.e., their last survey was at least 24 months ago. The most recent survey date has been added to this list as background to help you identify those HHAs that must be surveyed in FY2014 in order to comply with the statutory mandate to conduct surveys in each HHA at least every 36 months.

In order to provide the lists on a timely basis, data was pulled from the systems as of August 26, 2013. Thus some recently completed surveys may not have uploaded at that date. Any HHA on the Tier 1 list that had a survey completed within the last 36 months but not uploaded at the time the lists were generated may be deleted from the Tier 1 list.

Assignment of Survey Cycles

For FY2014, the Tier 1 Home Health List will replace the current guidelines for assignment of HHA survey cycles outlined in the State Operations Manual (SOM) instructions (see section 2195 of the SOM, Rev. 1, 05-21-04). HHAs will not be placed on 12-month or 12-to-36 month survey cycles. All HHAs, including newly certified HHAs and those with Condition-level survey deficiencies will be on 36-month survey cycles. Only HHAs with complaints (and possibly Deficit Reduction Act issues) requiring investigation will be surveyed more frequently than 36 months.

For questions concerning this memo, please contact Pat Sevast at (410) 786-8135 (e-mail at Patricia.Sevast@cms.hhs.gov).

Effective Date: October 1, 2013

Training: This memorandum should be shared with all survey and certification staff, their managers and the State/RO training coordinator.

/s/

Thomas E. Hamilton

Attachment

cc: Survey and Certification Regional Office Management