
CMS Issues State Survey Agency Directors Memo

From ANCOR:

CMS issued a [State Survey Agency Directors Memo](#) August, 17, 2020, authorizing states to add the following surveys to ones they can resume, should they have the resources (e.g., staff and/or PPE) to do so:

- Onsite revisits as specified in the revisit policy in the State Operations Manual (SOM) for surveys with end dates on, or after June 1, 2020;
- Complaint investigations that are triaged as Non-Immediate Jeopardy Medium
- Annual recertification surveys required to be conducted within 15 months from a provider's last recertification survey.

Memorandum Summary

- **CMS is committed** to taking critical steps to ensure America's health care facilities continue to be prepared in response to the threat of the 2019 Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19).
- **CMS is revising guidance on the expansion of survey activities to authorize onsite revisits and other survey types.**
- **CMS is providing guidance to State Survey Agencies (SAs) on resolving enforcement cases:** CMS is providing guidance on resolving enforcement cases that were previously directed to be held, and providing guidance on Civil Money Penalty (CMP) collection.
- **Expanded Desk Review Authority:** CMS is temporarily expanding the desk review policy to include review of continuing noncompliance following removal of Immediate Jeopardy (IJ), which would otherwise have required an onsite revisit from March 23, 2020, through May 31, 2020.
- **CMS is also issuing updated guidance for the re-prioritization** of routine SA Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA) survey activities, subject to the SA's discretion, in addition to lifting the restriction on processing CLIA enforcement actions, and issuing the Statement of Deficiencies and Plan of Correction (Form CMS-2567).

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