



Center for Medicaid and State Operations/Survey and Certification Group

Ref: S&C-08-04

DATE: November 21, 2007

TO: State Survey Agency Directors

FROM: Director
Survey and Certification Group

SUBJECT: Revisions to the Hospital Interpretive Guidelines for Infection Control

Memorandum Summary

- Interpretive Guidelines for 42 CFR 482.42, Hospital Condition of Participation: Infection Control, are being updated to reflect changing infectious and communicable disease threats as well as current knowledge and best practices.
- The attached Interpretive Guidelines reflect the change in Tag numbers incorporated into the most recent ASPEN release. However, the interpretive guidelines text will not be reflected in ASPEN until a later date.

The hospital Interpretive Guidelines regarding infection control have been revised. There has been no change in the hospital Condition of Participation (CoP) regulation for Infection Control at 42 CFR 482.42. However, changing infectious disease threats, as well as new mechanisms to confront these threats, have emerged in recent years. As a result, it is necessary to update these guidelines to better reflect current conditions within hospitals as well as contemporary infection control standards of practice.

The revised Interpretive Guidelines are attached. They discuss the applicable requirements for the infection control CoP and related standards, as well as the survey procedures to be used to determine compliance. They also contain discussion and examples of practices which hospitals are encouraged to adopt, but which are not necessarily required by the regulation.

These revised Interpretive Guidelines reflect the renumbering of tags that occurred in the August, 2007 ASPEN release. The revised text will be incorporated into ASPEN at a later date.

If you have questions, please contact David Eddinger via email at david.eddinger@cms.hhs.gov

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Effective Date: The revised guidelines are effective immediately. Please ensure that all surveyors are appropriately informed as to using the revised guidance within 30 days of this memorandum.

Training: The information contained in this letter should be shared with all survey and certification staff, their managers, and the State/RO training coordinators.

/s/

Thomas E. Hamilton

Attachment:

cc: Survey and Certification Regional Office Management