



Center for Clinical Standards and Quality/Survey & Certification Group

Admin Info: 15-45-ALL

DATE: August 28, 2015

TO: State Survey Agency Directors

FROM: Director
Survey and Certification Group

SUBJECT: Draft – FY 2016 Mission & Priority document (MPD) – Action

Memorandum Summary

- **Advance Draft-FY 2016 MPD:** Enclosed is a draft of the FY 2016 MPD
- **Comments by September 18, 2015:** Please send any comments, questions, or suggestions you may have to your CMS Regional Office, and copy bary.slovikosky@cms.hhs.gov.
- **Hospice Funding Requests by September 18, 2015** – Please send requests to the RO by September 18, 2015.

Comments on the Draft - Requested

Enclosed is a draft of the FY 2016 Mission & Priority document. Once we have received comments, we will make any changes and issue the final MPD so that you will have the finished document.

*Please send any comments or questions or suggestions you may have to your CMS Regional Office by **September 18, 2015** and copy bary.slovikosky@cms.hhs.gov.*

Hospice Funding Requests

Funding for hospice surveys will follow the same approach in FY2016 as in FY2015 (communicated via AdminInfo 15-26). In short, all survey and certification work in FY 2016 regarding both non-deemed and deemed hospices is to be funded first by IMPACT funds (after subtracting that portion of costs properly assigned to the State's usual licensure share of the costs). Medicare S&C funds will be used after the State's allocation of IMPACT Act funds has been committed.

Column D2 of Appendix 2 of the MPD is currently blank. It will be filled in after we receive the State requests for funding.

*Please send requests for hospice survey funding to your CMS Regional Office by **September 18, 2015** and copy bary.slovikosky@cms.hhs.gov. Please include the following information:*

1. **Number of Surveys:** Specify separately the total number of:
 - a. Recertification surveys of non-deemed hospice agencies, and
 - b. Complaint investigations of deemed and non-deemed agencies that the State expects to complete in the fiscal year.

Note that under the IMPACT Act of 2014, each Medicare certified hospice must be surveyed no less frequently than every 36 months. The statutory requirement moves these surveys into Tier 1 priority. Do not include validation surveys in this number, as funding for the assigned number of validation surveys will be provided separately.

2. **Total Cost:** Identify the total cost for all surveys identified above, regardless of payment source. We will then provide the State with an allocation of IMPACT funds that will comprise a substantial portion of the total cost. Allocation of the IMPACT funds will not need to wait until Congress passes the FY2016 budget, as the 2014 IMPACT Act provided for a multi-year appropriation.
3. **State-Only Amount:** The amount of the costs identified in #2 that the State expects will be properly assigned as a State-only share to reflect State licensure expenses.

S&C Medicare Funding Allocation Process

We have projected a 1.0% increase in Medicare funds as a target for this FY for all States. However, when Congress passes a final budget, we will engage in a process similar to the process used in FY2013-15; that is, we will ask each State to submit a budget request based on the State's needs and amount that the State actually expects to use. Due to State hiring limitations and the timing of federal appropriations, both we and States have found it more challenging to project funding availability and actual funding use in advance of the FY. We will therefore continue to provide a projected funding target, but will follow up later in the year with a more specific process.

/s/

Thomas E. Hamilton

Attachment

cc: Survey and Certification Regional Office Management