

STATE OF WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES

Aging and Long-Term Support Administration PO Box 45600, Olympia, Washington 98504-5600

March 26, 2025

ALTSA: NH #2025-011

QSSAM-25-1-ALL: CLARIFICATION OF CMS' PROVIDER ENROLLMENT SITE VISITS & SPECIFIC DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS FOR SNF AND NF

Dear Nursing Facility/Home Administrator:

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)'s Quality, Safety & Oversight Group is introducing a new memorandum type, Quality and Safety Special Alert memos (QSSAM). These memos will be geared towards specific provider types and will often serve as reminders of existing obligations or requirements. These QSSAM memos will not have any modifications to existing survey and certification policies.

On November 4, 2024, CMS published QSSAM-25-1-ALL, "Clarification of CMS' Provider Enrollment Visits (all providers and suppliers) and Specific Disclosure Requirements for SNF and NF."

The QSSAM provides clarification for CMS provider enrollment site visits to Medicare certified providers and suppliers that are outside of the Survey and Certification oversight process.

- CMS conducts a site visit verification process, separate from CMS or State Survey Agency health and safety surveys, for all provider types using National Site Visit Contractors (NSVCs). A site visit helps prevent questionable providers and suppliers from enrolling or staying enrolled in the Medicare Program.
 - To verify that CMS ordered a provider enrollment site visit, please contact your

Additionally, this QSSAM includes information for Medicare-Certified Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNFs) and Medicaid Certified Nursing Facilities (NFs) about the required disclosure of certain ownership, managerial, and other information, which will be requested by the Medicare Administrative Contractors, beginning in October 2024.

- On November 15, 2023, CMS issued a final rule that implements portions of section 6101 of the Affordable Care Act, requiring the disclosure of certain ownership, managerial, and other information regarding Medicare skilled nursing facilities (SNFs) and Medicaid nursing facilities (NFs). This additional data, as outlined in the final rule, will give CMS and the states a more complete background on the organizations and individuals that own, oversee, and facilitate the operations of nursing homes.
- CMS sent revalidation notices to enrolled skilled nursing facilities (SNFs) and nursing facilities (NFs) from October 2024 – December 2024 to collect data on ownership, managerial, and related party information.
- The CMS revalidation deadline is May 1, 2025.

Resources to Improve Quality of Care:

Check out CMS's new Quality in Focus interactive video series. The series of 10-15minute videos are tailored to provider types and aim to reduce the deficiencies most

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commonly cited during the CMS survey process, like infection control and accident prevention. Reducing these common deficiencies increases the quality of care for people with Medicare and Medicaid. Learn to:

- o Understand surveyor evaluation criteria,
- o Recognize deficiencies,
- o Incorporate solutions into your facility's standards of care Page 3 of 3.
- See the Quality, Safety, & Education Portal Training Catalog, and select Quality in Focus.

Related References:

Get guidance memos issued by the Quality, Safety and Oversight Group by going to
 <u>CMS.gov</u> page and entering your email to sign up. Check the box next to "CCSQ Policy,
 Administrative, and Safety Special Alert Memorandums" to be notified when we release
 a memo.

CMS Site Visit Verification:

- Medicare Provider Enrollment MLN (Enrollment tab, step 3),
- Provider & Supplier Enrollment Site Visits: CMS has Authority to Conduct,
- Provider Enrollment Site Visits (PDF) (August 2024)

Reporting Expanded Ownership, Management, & Related Party Data (SNFs only):

- <u>Skilled Nursing Facilities: Report Your Expanded Ownership, Management, & Related Party Data,</u>
- Skilled Nursing Facilities: Report Expanded Ownership, Management, & Related Party
 Data (Second topic under News & Additional Resources),
- Medicare and Medicaid Programs; Disclosures of Ownership and Additional Disclosable Parties Information for Skilled Nursing Facilities and Nursing Facilities; Medicare Providers' and Suppliers' Disclosure of Private Equity Companies and Real Estate Investment Trusts,
- CMS-855A Medicare Enrollment Application for Institutional Providers.

Please submit questions to rcspolicy@dshs.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

Amy Abbott, Director Residential Care Services

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