

CRITICAL ACCESS HOSPITAL (CAH) SURVEYS

Critical access hospitals (CAHs) are required to be in compliance with the Federal requirements set forth in the Medicare Conditions of Participation (CoP) in order to receive Medicare/Medicaid payment. The goal of a CAH survey is to determine if the CAH is in compliance with the CoP set forth at 42 CFR Part 485 Subpart F.

Certification of CAH compliance with the CoP is accomplished through observations, interviews, and document/record reviews. The survey process focuses on a CAH's performance of organizational and patient-focused functions and processes. The CAH survey is the means used to assess compliance with Federal health, safety, and quality standards that will assure that the beneficiary receives safe, quality care and services. For more information, visit the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) website:

https://www.cms.gov/GuidanceforLawsAndRegulations/04_CAHs.asp

Below are sample CAH survey tools developed by State Offices of Rural Health and Hospital Associations.

CAH Medicare Mock Survey

Author: Minnesota State Office of Rural Health and Primary Care

The Minnesota Flex Program conducts mock surveys to help CAHs prepare for their Medicare Survey, and more importantly, help CAHs ensure the highest quality of care at their facilities. By conducting mock surveys, CAHs receive survey preparation recommendations, CoP guidance, and additional resources.

<http://www.ruralcenter.org/tasc/resources/flex-program-conducts-critical-access-hospital-medicare-mock-survey>

CAH Survey Documents

Author: Nebraska Hospital Association

The intent of the CAH re-survey process is to evaluate facility compliance with each of the CoP in the most efficient manner possible. State surveyors will assess each CoP concurrently through observation, interviews with staff and patients, policy and procedure reviews, and record reviews of open and closed patient records.

<http://www.ruralcenter.org/tasc/resources/critical-access-hospital-survey-documents-3>

CAH Survey Checklist for Written Policies, Procedures and Agreements

Author: Nebraska Hospital Association

This checklist can be used to ensure a hospital has all of the documents ready for review when the hospital is surveyed. This document is intended only to serve as a guide. <http://www.nhanet.org/pdf/cah/checklist2.pdf>

CAH On-Site Survey Form

Author: Alabama Office of Primary Care and Rural Health

This tool was created to be used during site visits to CAHs to identify and prioritize rural hospital needs. Information collected on the form includes technical assistance needs and status of projects.

<http://www.ruralcenter.org/tasc/resources/critical-access-hospital-cah-site-survey-form>

CAH Survey Preparation Guidelines

Author: Illinois Department of Public Health, Center for Rural Health

This document is a list of questions that will help a hospital to prepare for a survey in the areas of case management and utilization review.

<http://www.ruralcenter.org/tasc/resources/cah-survey-preparation-guidelines>

Guide to CAH Survey Preparation

Author: Nebraska Hospital Association

The intent of the CAH survey process is to evaluate facility compliance with each of the CoPs in the most efficient manner possible. State surveyors will assess each CoP concurrently through observation, interviews with staff and patients, policy and procedure reviews, and record reviews of open and closed patient records.

<http://www.ruralcenter.org/tasc/resources/critical-access-hospital-survey-documents-0>

North Dakota CAH and Flex Program Survey

Author: Center for Rural Health, University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences

This tool was developed to survey information about a CAH including: hospital characteristics, hospital issues, Flex program impact on the CAH, and networks.

<http://www.ruralcenter.org/tasc/resources/north-dakota-critical-access-hospital-and-flex-program-survey-2008>