
Today, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) to ensure surveyors with State Survey Agencies and accrediting organizations charged with inspecting nursing homes and other health care facilities, understand the changes in guidance issued on March 4 suspending non-emergency survey inspections, allowing them to focus on the most current serious health and safety threats, like infectious diseases and abuse.

This shift in survey prioritization will further enable State Inspectors to address the spread of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19).

It is important to note that CMS remains committed to ensuring continuity of oversight activities during this time, therefore any information or complaints that raise concerns related to immediate jeopardy or allegations of abuse will be investigated. For situations specific to COVID-19, CMS will coordinate with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as well as other state and local health departments on the timing and conduct of investigations.

Additionally, surveys for existing in-process enforcement actions, and surveys mandated by law to occur within specific time intervals will continue uninterrupted, as well as initial certification surveys for new providers to support building healthcare capacity.

The guidance to State Survey Agencies can be found here: https://www.cms.gov/medicareprovider-enrollment-and-certificationsurveycertificationgeninfopolicy-and/suspension-survey-activities

The link to the related FAQs can be found here: https://www.cms.gov/files/document/covid19survey-activity-suspension-faqs.pdf
This FAQ, and earlier CMS actions in response to the COVID-19 virus, are part of the ongoing White House Task Force efforts. To keep up with the important work CMS is doing in response to COVID-19, please visit the Current Emergencies Website.

Summary of CMS Public Health Action on Coronavirus to date:


On March 9, 2020: CMS issued a fact sheet with additional guidance for healthcare providers and patients about the telehealth benefits in the agency’s Medicare program. Expanded use of virtual care, such as virtual check-ins, are important tools for keeping beneficiaries healthy, while helping to contain the community spread of the COVID-19 virus. [https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/press-releases/telehealth-benefits-medicare-are-lifeline-patients-during-coronavirus-outbreak](https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/press-releases/telehealth-benefits-medicare-are-lifeline-patients-during-coronavirus-outbreak)


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