



Navigating a CMS Termination & Tips for Resolving Threats to Certification

START



HOSPITAL RECEIVES STATEMENT OF DEFICIENCIES [CMS Form 2567]



TIP #2

GET YOUR PLAN OF CORRECTION (POC) RIGHT
Don't make promises you can't keep. Don't fix things that aren't broken. Learn how to get your POC accepted without giving away the farm.



TIP #1

SEEK EXTERNAL EXPERTISE
When you receive a notice of deficiencies with the CMS Conditions of Participation/Coverage/Requirements, commonly called a "CMS-2567," you are at risk of losing your Medicare certification.

IMMEDIATE JEOPARDY



If CMS determines that an organization's deficient practice (non-compliance) poses a significant threat of harm to patients, then the hospital will have to implement an immediate plan for abatement to protect patients.



23 DAYS

MEDICARE CERTIFICATION TERMINATED

If the hospital can't resolve immediate jeopardy within 23 days, then its Medicare certification is terminated.

IF IMMEDIATE JEOPARDY ISN'T FOUND

at the time of survey, or is successfully abated, CMS allows for a 90-day termination process.



TIP #3

BE AWARE OF CRITICAL DATES
Successfully abating immediate jeopardy doesn't mean you're in the clear. The rest of the process has many twists and turns. Seek expert counsel early to help you navigate this very risky process, meet critical deadlines, and avoid common pitfalls and traps.



TIP #4

DON'T OVERCOMMIT
While it must meet all required elements, a POC must not commit to actions that are not required or cannot be implemented for the long term. Don't overcommit only to underperform.



TIP #5

UNDERSTAND THE REAL REASON FOR NON-COMPLIANCE
There will likely be many "small" deficient findings in the CMS-2567; however, it is essential to understand what is driving the non-compliance, and you must include correction of the core cause in the POC. An example might be multiple, somewhat different findings related to behavioral health patient protection in the Emergency Department. The real cause may be failure to identify highly vulnerable patients during suicidal screenings and assessments.



TERMINATION PROCESS BEGINS

when CMS issues an enforcement letter that outlines which Conditions of Participation (COPs/COCs) are out of compliance and sets a date for the Medicare termination, 90 days from the date of the letter.



PLAN OF CORRECTION

The hospital is given the opportunity to submit a POC (sometimes referred to as an allegation of compliance) that identifies the steps it will take to resolve the issues cited. The hospital has 10 days from date of the enforcement letter to submit a POC. The POC must outline specific actions, accountabilities, compliance-monitoring activities, and time frames. Corrective actions should be in place 4 to 6 weeks before the termination date so CMS can resurvey and verify compliance.



TIP #6

TACKLE THE BIG ISSUES
Focus on sustainable, practical actions that effectively address the issues that led to the condition-level finding(s).



DAY 45

POC COMPLETION

The POC must be complete 45 days before the termination date to ensure CMS has enough time to schedule follow-up surveys and issue a decision on termination. After receiving and accepting the hospital's POC and resurveying to evaluate compliance, CMS may...



TIP #7

SHOW SUPPORT
Simplify processes to make compliance easier for frontline personnel, and reinforce improvements through real-time, supportive monitoring and interactions.



A



Find the hospital in compliance, clear the termination, and (for accredited hospitals/healthcare entities) reinstate deemed status.

B



Find that the hospital remains out of compliance but set a new termination date to give the hospital a second opportunity to come into compliance.

C



Find that the hospital remains out of compliance and proceed to termination, effective on the date in the original letter.



TIP #8

SIMPLIFY & COMPLY
Have an "evidence book" with documentation of actions promised (with evidence of successful completion) in the POC at your fingertips before and during the follow-up survey.



DAY 75

PUBLICATION OF TERMINATION



TIP #9

DON'T GO IT ALONE



DAY 90

MEDICARE TERMINATION