



Division of Survey and Certification, Region VI

June 12, 2007

Mr. Henry F. Hartsell, Jr. Ph.D
Deputy Commissioner
Oklahoma Department of Health –Protective Health Services
1000 NE 10th Street
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73117-1299

Dear Dr. Hartsell:

This letter confirms our further discussions regarding the prioritization of initial Medicare certification surveys based on instructions in the fiscal year (FY) 2007 Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Survey and Certification Mission and Priority Document (M+P). It also serves as a written notice from CMS Region VI agreeing to the proposed workload priorities and plans specified in your June 5, 2007, letter.

Per this letter, CMS agrees that the Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH) should conduct initial certification surveys for the fourteen completed applications pending an initial survey as of May 1, 2007. In addition, OSDH will send the CMS Regional office a list of the fourteen providers that will be scheduled for a survey. All other applications completed after May 1, 2007, can not be scheduled for an initial survey until all other higher priority tier workload (as identified in the August 7, 2006 Mission and Priority Document) is completed. Providers that are not in compliance at the time of their initial survey will not receive another initial survey until all higher priority tier workload is completed.

As a reminder, providers that request Medicare certification in areas that may have access to care issues will be considered, reviewed and approved by CMS on a case by case basis. If you have any questions, please contact Gerardo Ortiz at (214) 767-2084 or gerardo.ortiz@cms.hhs.gov.

Sincerely,

Molly Crayshaw
Associate Regional Administrator
Division of Survey Certification

Cc: Oklahoma Hospital Association
Oklahoma Association for Home Care
Oklahoma Association of Home Care Providers
Oklahoma Hospice & Palliative Care Association
Oklahoma Association of Homes and Services for the Aging