



Center for Clinical Standards and Quality/Survey & Certification Group

Admin Info: 13-32-Hospital-CAH

DATE: August 9, 2013

TO: State Survey Agency Directors

FROM: Director
Survey and Certification Group

SUBJECT: Training re: Electronic Health Records (EHRs) - Requesting State Survey Agency (SA) Learning Needs Assessment

Memorandum Summary

- ***EHR Training Being Developed:*** The Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) is working with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to develop training for surveyors regarding EHRs. This training will focus on hospital and Critical Access Hospital (CAH) surveys, and may also be relevant to Ambulatory Surgical Centers (ASCs).
- ***Requesting SA Learning Needs Assessment:*** We are asking SAs to complete the brief on-line survey at the following link to tell us what they would find helpful in webinars regarding EHRs: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/SP5CBJN>

Background

Review of medical records is an important part of the CMS survey process, and surveyors are encountering a variety of EHR systems in a rapidly growing number of hospitals and other providers and suppliers. The impetus for much of this growth is the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health (HITECH) Act, which created the Medicare and Medicaid Electronic Health Records (EHR) Incentive Programs to promote the adoption of EHRs in support of the ultimate goals of improving the quality of patient care and reducing health costs. Through this program, eligible hospitals and doctors earn incentives by demonstrating “meaningful use” of certified EHR technology, which means that health care providers use EHRs in ways that improve care and lower costs. Examples of “meaningful use” include electronic prescribing of medications and ensuring patients have access to their digital records. ONC and CMS each have roles in implementing programs related to EHRs.

ONC is working with CMS Survey and Certification Group to develop webinars for surveyors regarding EHRs. Potential topics include health information technology (health IT) and patient safety as well as an overview of features required of ONC-certified EHRs that may also be useful to CMS surveyors. At this time, the content will focus on hospital and CAH surveys, and it may

also be relevant to ASCs. Learning needs assessment focusing on EHR issues in Long Term Care other provider and supplier types will be conducted separately.

Request

We are asking SAs to complete a brief on-line survey to tell us what they would find helpful in webinars regarding EHRs. The survey has been created in Survey Monkey, should take 10 minutes or less to complete, and can be accessed until Friday September 6, 2013 at the following link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/SP5CBJN>.

Questions concerning this memorandum may be addressed to Paula DiStabile at paula.distabile@cms.hhs.gov. We appreciate your assistance in designing training about EHRs that hospital, CAH and possibly ASC surveyors will find helpful.

/s/

Thomas E. Hamilton

cc: Survey and Certification Regional Office Management