

JCAHO CRITICAL UPDATE

1-18-08

Dear Clients,

We have had 2 unusual interpretations going on with JCAHO right now at 2 different agencies. The first expectation JCAHO has had is that the agencies have a 3 year capital expenditure plan. This is a Medicare requirement not usually surveyed on the initial Medicare survey. If you are waiting for a JCAHO survey, please get together a 3 year capital expenditure plan now- The JCAHO surveyor is considering this a CONDITION level which will bar the agency from passing the survey.

In all the years including 2007 we have had JCAHO surveys a 3 year capital expenditure plan has never been requested on the **initial survey**. The regulation itself is not a condition level tag. **We were able to discuss this today with the surveyor and get it to a standard level. You need to notify your accountant and have them prepare a 3 year plan and have it ready for the initial survey.**

The 2nd unusual event we had is one agency had an LVN as the Alternate Administrator. She has had over 1 year of charge nurse experience, supervising aides, etc. in the nursing home setting. The JCAHO surveyor initially cited the federal regulation that the Alternate Administrator must be an RN or physician. After reviewing the regulations with her, she called JCAHO corporate office in Illinois and stated that they agreed 1 year of supervisory experience in a healthcare setting was acceptable however they would not accept this individual nurses' qualifications. They gave the agency a CONDITION out barring passing the survey.

I am asking TAHC to please help us and get involved. It is difficult having out of state people come in and survey Texas. Each State is different. We have had numerous JCAHO surveys in the past and have not had these interpretations by their surveyors. CMS will need to be involved and we recommend Troy Brooks as the attorney to help these agencies. The federal regulations have not been interpreted in this way before by DADS or JCAHO or CHAP. Be alerted!

I wanted to share this information with you "real time" because it is CRITICAL.

TAHC's phone number is: (512) 338-9293

Troy Brooks can be reached at: (713) 951-1049

Thanks

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