

from the date of the request for a hearing.

(g) The public must have access to all agency hearing decisions, subject to the requirements of subpart F of this part for safeguarding of information.

**§ 431.245 Notifying the applicant or recipient of a State agency decision.**

The agency must notify the applicant or recipient in writing of—

- (a) The decision; and
- (b) His right to request a State agency hearing or seek judicial review, to the extent that either is available to him.

**§ 431.246 Corrective action.**

The agency must promptly make corrective payments, retroactive to the date an incorrect action was taken, and, if appropriate, provide for admission or readmission of an individual to a facility if—

- (a) The hearing decision is favorable to the applicant or recipient; or
- (b) The agency decides in the applicant's or recipient's favor before the hearing.

[57 FR 56506, Nov. 30, 1992]

FEDERAL FINANCIAL PARTICIPATION

**§ 431.250 Federal financial participation.**

FFP is available in expenditures for—

- (a) Payments for services continued pending a hearing decision;
- (b) Payments made—
  - (1) To carry out hearing decisions; and
  - (2) For services provided within the scope of the Federal Medicaid program and made under a court order.
- (c) Payments made to take corrective action prior to a hearing;
- (d) Payments made to extend the benefit of a hearing decision or court order to individuals in the same situation as those directly affected by the decision or order;
- (e) Retroactive payments under paragraphs (b), (c), and (d) of this section in accordance with applicable Federal policies on corrective payments; and
- (f) Administrative costs incurred by the agency for—

(1) Transportation for the applicant or recipient, his representative, and witnesses to and from the hearing;

(2) Meeting other expenses of the applicant or recipient in connection with the hearing;

(3) Carrying out the hearing procedures, including expenses of obtaining the additional medical assessment specified in § 431.240 of this subpart; and

(4) Hearing procedures for Medicaid and non-Medicaid individuals appealing transfers, discharges and determinations of preadmission screening and annual resident reviews under part 483, subparts C and E of this chapter.

[44 FR 17932, Mar. 29, 1979, as amended at 45 FR 24882, Apr. 11, 1980; 57 FR 56506, Nov. 30, 1992]

**Subpart F—Safeguarding Information on Applicants and Recipients**

SOURCE: 44 FR 17934, Mar. 29, 1979, unless otherwise noted.

**§ 431.300 Basis and purpose.**

(a) Section 1902(a)(7) of the Act requires that a State plan must provide safeguards that restrict the use or disclosure of information concerning applicants and recipients to purposes directly connected with the administration of the plan. This subpart specifies State plan requirements, the types of information to be safeguarded, the conditions for release of safeguarded information, and restrictions on the distribution of other information.

(b) Section 1137 of the Act, which requires agencies to exchange information in order to verify the income and eligibility of applicants and recipients (see § 435.940ff), requires State agencies to have adequate safeguards to assure that—

- (1) Information exchanged by the State agencies is made available only to the extent necessary to assist in the valid administrative needs of the program receiving the information, and information received under section 6103(l) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 is exchanged only with agencies authorized to receive that information under that section of the Code; and

**§ 431.301**

(2) The information is adequately stored and processed so that it is protected against unauthorized disclosure for other purposes.

[51 FR 7210, Feb. 28, 1986]

**§ 431.301 State plan requirements.**

A State plan must provide, under a State statute that imposes legal sanctions, safeguards meeting the requirements of this subpart that restrict the use or disclosure of information concerning applicants and recipients to purposes directly connected with the administration of the plan.

**§ 431.302 Purposes directly related to State plan administration.**

Purposes directly related to plan administration include—

- (a) Establishing eligibility;
- (b) Determining the amount of medical assistance;
- (c) Providing services for recipients; and
- (d) Conducting or assisting an investigation, prosecution, or civil or criminal proceeding related to the administration of the plan.

**§ 431.303 State authority for safeguarding information.**

The Medicaid agency must have authority to implement and enforce the provisions specified in this subpart for safeguarding information about applicants and recipients.

**§ 431.304 Publicizing safeguarding requirements.**

(a) The agency must publicize provisions governing the confidential nature of information about applicants and recipients, including the legal sanctions imposed for improper disclosure and use.

(b) The agency must provide copies of these provisions to applicants and recipients and to other persons and agencies to whom information is disclosed.

**§ 431.305 Types of information to be safeguarded.**

(a) The agency must have criteria that govern the types of information about applicants and recipients that are safeguarded.

(b) This information must include at least—

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- (1) Names and addresses;
- (2) Medical services provided;
- (3) Social and economic conditions or circumstances;
- (4) Agency evaluation of personal information;
- (5) Medical data, including diagnosis and past history of disease or disability; and
- (6) Any information received for verifying income eligibility and amount of medical assistance payments (see § 435.940ff). Income information received from SSA or the Internal Revenue Service must be safeguarded according to the requirements of the agency that furnished the data.
- (7) Any information received in connection with the identification of legally liable third party resources under § 433.138 of this chapter.

[44 FR 17934, Mar. 29, 1979, as amended at 51 FR 7210, Feb. 28, 1986; 52 FR 5975, Feb. 27, 1987]

**§ 431.306 Release of information.**

(a) The agency must have criteria specifying the conditions for release and use of information about applicants and recipients.

(b) Access to information concerning applicants or recipients must be restricted to persons or agency representatives who are subject to standards of confidentiality that are comparable to those of the agency.

(c) The agency must not publish names of applicants or recipients.

(d) The agency must obtain permission from a family or individual, whenever possible, before responding to a request for information from an outside source, unless the information is to be used to verify income, eligibility and the amount of medical assistance payment under section 1137 of this Act and §§ 435.940 through 435.965 of this chapter.

If, because of an emergency situation, time does not permit obtaining consent before release, the agency must notify the family or individual immediately after supplying the information.

(e) The agency's policies must apply to all requests for information from outside sources, including governmental bodies, the courts, or law enforcement officials.

(f) If a court issues a subpoena for a case record or for any agency representative to testify concerning an applicant or recipient, the agency must inform the court of the applicable statutory provisions, policies, and regulations restricting disclosure of information.

(g) Before requesting information from, or releasing information to, other agencies to verify income, eligibility and the amount of assistance under §§ 435.940 through 435.965 of this chapter, the agency must execute data exchange agreements with those agencies, as specified in § 435.945(f).

(h) Before requesting information from, or releasing information to, other agencies to identify legally liable third party resources under § 433.138(d) of this chapter, the agency must execute data exchanges agreements, as specified in § 433.138(h)(2) of this chapter.

[44 FR 17934, Mar. 29, 1979, as amended at 51 FR 7210, Feb. 28, 1986; 52 FR 5975, Feb. 27, 1987]

**§ 431.307 Distribution of information materials.**

(a) All materials distributed to applicants, recipients, or medical providers must—

(1) Directly relate to the administration of the Medicaid program;

(2) Have no political implications except to the extent required to implement the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (NVRA) Pub. L. 103-931; for States that are exempt from the requirements of NVRA, voter registration may be a voluntary activity so long as the provisions of section 7(a)(5) of NVRA are observed;

(3) Contain the names only of individuals directly connected with the administration of the plan; and

(4) Identify those individuals only in their official capacity with the State or local agency.

(b) The agency must not distribute materials such as “holiday” greetings, general public announcements, partisan voting information and alien registration notices.

(c) The agency may distribute materials directly related to the health and welfare of applicants and recipients, such as announcements of free medical

examinations, availability of surplus food, and consumer protection information.

(d) Under NVRA, the agency must distribute voter information and registration materials as specified in NVRA.

[44 FR 17934, Mar. 29, 1979, as amended at 61 FR 58143, Nov. 13, 1996]

**Subparts G—L [Reserved]**

**Subpart M—Relations With Other Agencies**

**§ 431.610 Relations with standard-setting and survey agencies.**

(a) *Basis and purpose.* This section implements—

(1) Section 1902(a)(9) of the Act, concerning the designation of State authorities to be responsible for establishing and maintaining health and other standards for institutions participating in Medicaid; and

(2) Section 1902(a)(33) of the Act, concerning the designation of the State licensing agency to be responsible for determining whether institutions and agencies meet requirements for participation in the State’s Medicaid program.

(3) Section 1919(g)(1)(A) of the Act, concerning responsibilities of the State for certifying the compliance of non-State operated NFs with requirements of participation in the State’s Medicaid program.

(b) *Designated agency responsible for health standards.* A State plan must designate, as the State authority responsible for establishing and maintaining health standards for private or public institutions that provide services to Medicaid recipients, the same State agency that is used by the Secretary to determine qualifications of institutions and suppliers of services to participate in Medicare (see 42 CFR 405.1902). The requirement for establishing and maintaining standards does not apply with respect to religious non-medical institutions as defined in § 440.170(b) of this chapter.

(c) *Designated agency responsible for standards other than health standards.* The plan must designate the Medicaid