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CMS and the State determine the seriousness of the deficiencies.

(b) Determining seriousness of deficiencies. To determine the seriousness of the deficiency, CMS considers and the State must consider at least the following factors:

(1) Whether a facility’s deficiencies constitute—
   (i) No actual harm with a potential for minimal harm;
   (ii) No actual harm with a potential for more than minimal harm, but not immediate jeopardy;
   (iii) Actual harm that is not immediate jeopardy; or
   (iv) Immediate jeopardy to resident health or safety.

(2) Whether the deficiencies—
   (i) Are isolated;
   (ii) Constitute a pattern; or
   (iii) Are widespread.

(c) Other factors which may be considered in choosing a remedy within a remedy category. Following the initial assessment, CMS and the State may consider other factors, which may include, but are not limited to the following:

(1) The relationship of the one deficiency to other deficiencies resulting in noncompliance.

(2) The facility’s prior history of noncompliance in general and specifically with reference to the cited deficiencies.

§ 488.406 Available remedies.

(a) General. In addition to the remedy of termination of the provider agreement, the following remedies are available:

(1) Temporary management.

(2) Denial of payment including—
   (i) Denial of payment for all individuals, imposed by CMS, to a—
       (A) Skilled nursing facility, for Medicare;
       (B) State, for Medicaid; or
   (ii) Denial of payment for all new admissions.

(3) Civil money penalties.

(4) State monitoring.

(5) Transfer of residents.

(6) Closure of the facility and transfer of residents.

(7) Directed plan of correction.

(8) Directed in-service training.

(9) Alternative or additional State remedies approved by CMS.

(b) Remedies that must be established. At a minimum, and in addition to termination of the provider agreement, the State must establish the following remedies or approved alternatives to the following remedies:

(1) Temporary management.

(2) Denial of payment for new admissions.

(3) Civil money penalties.

(4) Transfer of residents.

(5) Closure of the facility and transfer of residents.

(6) State monitoring.

(c) State plan requirement. If a State wishes to use remedies for noncompliance that are either additional or alternative to those specified in paragraphs (a) or (b) of this section, it must—

(1) Specify those remedies in the State plan; and

(2) Demonstrate to CMS’s satisfaction that those remedies are as effective as the remedies listed in paragraph (a) of this section, for deterring noncompliance and correcting deficiencies.

(d) State remedies in dually participating facilities. If the State’s remedy is unique to the State plan and has been approved by CMS, then that remedy, as imposed by the State under its Medicaid authority, may be imposed by CMS against the Medicare provider agreement of a dually participating facility.

[59 FR 56243, Nov. 10, 1994; 60 FR 50118, Sept. 28, 1995]

§ 488.408 Selection of remedies.

(a) Categories of remedies. In this section, the remedies specified in §488.406(a) are grouped into categories and applied to deficiencies according to how serious the noncompliance is.

(1) Application of remedies. After considering the factors specified in §488.404, as applicable, if CMS and the State choose to impose remedies, as provided in paragraphs (c)(1), (d)(1) and (e)(1) of this section, for facility noncompliance, instead of, or in addition to, termination of the provider agreement, CMS does and the State must follow the criteria set forth in paragraphs (c)(2), (d)(2), and (e)(2) of this section, as applicable.

(c) Category I. (1) Category 1 remedies include the following: