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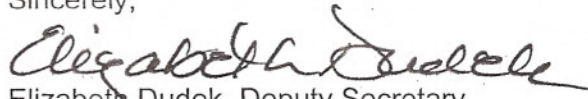
To: Comprehensive Outpatient Rehabilitation Facilities Seeking Medicare Certification
Subject: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Direction Regarding Workload Prioritization

This letter is to notify comprehensive outpatient rehabilitation facilities seeking Medicare certification of important information from CMS. While there is no moratorium on comprehensive outpatient rehabilitation facility surveys, initial certification surveys are listed as Tier 4 (lowest) priority for all survey work.

CMS states that the assignment of a lower priority for new comprehensive outpatient rehabilitation facility certification is necessary since federal funding for Medicare surveys has decreased. States cannot conduct initial surveys of new providers unless they can ensure they will be completing all statutorily-required surveys or surveys assessed a higher priority by CMS. CMS requires that all states complete their higher priority work before using any federal funds for initial surveys. Florida will not have federal funds available for initial certification surveys once all of the priority work is completed.

If you have questions about this letter, please contact Laura MacLafferty, Hospital and Outpatient Services Unit at (850) 487-2717.

Sincerely,


Elizabeth Dudek, Deputy Secretary
Division of Health Quality Assurance

