



Indiana State  
Department of Health

# LONG TERM CARE NEWSLETTER

**ISDH Long Term Care Newsletter**  
**Issue 2018-06**  
**July 11, 2018**

**Today's Issue:**

- CMS Update
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  - QSO 18-18-NH - Final Revised Policies Regarding the Immediate Imposition of Federal Remedies
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## CMS Update

### **QSO 17-30- Hospitals/CAHs/NHs - REVISED 07.06.2018 - Requirement to Reduce *Legionella* Risk in Healthcare Facility Water Systems**

The bacterium *Legionella* can cause a serious type of pneumonia called Legionnaire's Disease in persons at risk. Outbreaks have been linked to poorly maintained water systems in buildings with large or complex water systems including hospitals and long term care facilities. Transmission can occur via aerosols from devices such as shower heads, cooling towers, hot tubs, and decorative fountains.

Facilities must develop and adhere to policies and procedures that inhibit microbial growth in building water systems that reduce the risk of growth and spread of *Legionella* and other opportunistic pathogens in water.

This policy memorandum applies to hospitals, critical access hospitals (CAHs) and long term care. This policy memorandum clarifies expectations for providers, accrediting organizations, and surveyors and does not impose any new expectations nor requirements. This policy memorandum supersedes the previous Survey & Certification (S&C) 17-30 released on June 02, 2017 and the subsequent revisions issued on June 9, 2017.

CMS expects Medicare and Medicare/Medicaid certified healthcare facilities to have water management policies and procedures to reduce the risk of growth and spread of *Legionella* and other opportunistic pathogens in building water systems.

Long term care surveyors will expect that a water management plan (which includes a facility risk assessment and testing protocols) is available for review but will not cite the facility based on the specific risk assessment or testing protocols in use.

Additional information is available: [QSO 17-30- Hospitals/CAHs/NHs - REVISED 07.06.2018 - Requirement to Reduce \*Legionella\* Risk in Healthcare Facility Water Systems to Prevent Cases and Outbreaks of Legionnaires' disease \(LD\)](#)

**QSO 18-18-NH - Final Revised Policies Regarding the Immediate Imposition of Federal Remedies**

NOTE: This memo replaces the following Survey & Certification (S&C) Memos: 16-31-NH released July 22, 2016 and revised on July 29, 2016, and S&C: 18-01-NH, released in draft on October 27, 2017.

The October 2017 memo solicited comments on a proposed directive requiring, for certain situations, immediate imposition of federal remedies on Medicare and Medicaid participating skilled nursing facilities. After reviewing comments, CMS is issuing a final version of the directive. Substantive revisions to the prior Immediate Imposition of Federal Remedies guidance include:

- When the current survey identifies Immediate Jeopardy (IJ) that does not result in serious injury, harm, impairment or death, the CMS Regional Offices may determine the most appropriate remedy;
- We clarified that Past Noncompliance deficiencies (as described in §7510.1 of this chapter) are **not** included in the criteria for Immediate Imposition of Remedies; and,
- For Special Focus Facilities (SFFs), S/S level "F" citations under tags F812, F813 or F814 are excluded from immediate imposition of remedies.

**Revisions to Chapter 7 of the State Operations Manual (SOM):** The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has revised guidance in Chapter 7 of the SOM related to the Immediate Imposition of Federal Remedies as noted. Other sections of Chapter 7 have been revised to ensure conformity and consistency with these revisions.

Additional information and the revision to SOM- Chapter 7 is available: [QSO 18-18-NH - Final Revised Policies Regarding the Immediate Imposition of Federal Remedies](#)

## MDS Training Schedule

Indiana State Department of Health, Division of Education and Quality Improvement, will be hosting the annual MDS 3.0 training. This training is recommended for MDS Coordinators, back-up Coordinators and Consultants. MDS items to be reviewed include Sections GG, I, J, O, M, N, and updates for October 1, 2018. Six training sessions are currently planned to be conducted throughout the state. There is no cost to attend.

Click [MDS Training Schedule](#) for dates, times and locations. To register contact Indiana RAI Coordinator, Barbara Wheeler, RN at [bwheeler@isdh.in.gov](mailto:bwheeler@isdh.in.gov) or 317-233-4719.