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Special Bulletin

CMS Requests Data on Location and Distance from CAHs

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We have become aware that CMS is currently sending letters to CAHs requesting, within 15 days of notification, documentation regarding the CAH's compliance with the statutory location and distance requirements, or necessary provider status as applicable. The letter provides a listing of the types of data that are needed to determine if the location and distance requirements have been met. However, a CAH that can demonstrate it is a necessary provider in a state's rural health plan is exempt from the distance requirement.

We are in touch with CMS and are monitoring the issue. CMS has stated that the letters are meant to obtain preliminary information pending the next recertification or re-accreditation of the CAH. The agency also stated that CAHs can readily receive extensions to the 15-day deadline by calling or emailing the contact listed in the letter: Rosemary Robinson at Rosemary.Robinson@cms.hhs.gov or (404) 562-7405. We suggest email due to the potentially large volume of requested extensions.

If you have questions and/or would like to further discuss the issue with us, please contact Priya Bathija, AHA senior associate director of policy, at (202) 626-2678 or pbathija@aha.org.

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