



**American Hospital
Association**

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**STATEMENT ON CENTERS FOR MEDICARE & MEDICAID SERVICES'
PROPOSED RULE TO REDUCE REGULATORY BURDEN**

**Rich Umbdenstock
President and CEO
American Hospital Association**

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Today's proposed rule is an important step forward in further reducing burdensome requirements to hospitals. Many of these changes will be particularly welcomed by small and rural hospitals.

We especially applaud CMS for proposing to rescind the regulation that hospital governing boards must include a member of the medical staff. While most hospitals have physicians on their governing boards, CMS recognized that the requirement was not feasible for *all* hospitals. CMS revamped the requirements to focus on the need for good communication between governing boards and medical staff members about patient care.

However, we are disappointed that CMS did not allow hospitals in multi-hospital systems to have single integrated medical staff structures if that's how those providers choose to be organized. Hospitals are delivering more coordinated, patient-centered care and CMS should not let antiquated organizational structures stand in the way.

We will continue to work with CMS to further eliminate burdensome requirements that impede patient care.

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