



Center for Medicaid and State Operations/Survey and Certification Group

Ref: S&C-09-02

DATE: October 3, 2008
TO: State Survey Agency Directors
FROM: Director
Survey and Certification Group
SUBJECT: Approval of Deeming Authority of Det Norske Veritas Healthcare, Inc. for Hospitals

Memorandum Summary

This memorandum announces the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' (CMS) decision to approve Det Norske Veritas Healthcare, Inc. (DNV Healthcare) for recognition as a national accreditation program for hospitals seeking to participate in the Medicare program.

Section 1865(b) of the Social Security Act (the Act) permits providers and suppliers accredited by an approved national accrediting body to be "*deemed*" to meet Medicare Conditions for Coverage or Participation. To receive approval, accreditation organizations must demonstrate to CMS that their requirements meet or exceed the Medicare conditions.

CMS reviewed DNV Healthcare's application for approval of deeming authority for hospitals in accordance with 42 CFR 488.4 and 42 CFR 488.8. CMS' review included DNV Healthcare's survey and accrediting process as well as its health and safety standards. CMS' review found DNV Healthcare's accreditation program for hospitals to meet or exceed the Medicare Conditions of Participation (CoP).

CMS announced DNV Healthcare's approval as a deemed status accreditation program for hospitals in the September 29, 2008, *Federal Register* (see attachment A). This is an initial 4 year approval effective September 26, 2008 through September 26, 2012. Deeming authority for this program is limited to the Medicare CoPs and does not apply to ownership, enrollment, or other Medicare requirements. Attachment B contains talking points for use by Regional Office and State Agency staff.

This approval provides hospitals with another accreditation option in addition to the Joint Commission and the American Osteopathic Association. DNV Healthcare's hospital accreditation program is unique in that it integrates the ISO 9001 standards (international quality standards that define minimum requirements for a quality management system) and the Medicare hospital CoPs.

If you have any questions regarding this memorandum, please contact Cindy Melanson at 410-786-0310 or via E-mail at cindy.melanson@cms.hhs.gov.

Effective date: Immediately. The State agency should disseminate this information within 30 days of the date of this memorandum.

Training: The information contained in this announcement should be shared with relevant survey and certification staff, their managers, and the State/RO training coordinator.

/s/
Thomas E. Hamilton

Attachments

cc: Survey and Certification Regional Office Management

**CMS-2895-FN Approval of Det Norske Veritas Healthcare, Inc. for
Deeming Authority for Hospitals**

- This notice announces our decision to approve Det Norske Veritas Healthcare, Inc. (DNVHC) for recognition as a national accreditation program for hospitals seeking to participate in the Medicare or Medicaid programs.
- This is an initial 4-year approval effective September 26, 2008 through September 26, 2012.
- This approval provides hospitals with another accreditation option in addition to the Joint Commission and the American Osteopathic Association.
- DNVHC's hospital accreditation program is unique in that it integrates the ISO 9001 standards (international quality standards that define minimum requirements for a quality management system) and the Medicare hospital conditions of participation.