



Indiana State
Department of Health

LONG TERM CARE NEWSLETTER

ISDH Long Term Care Newsletter
Issue 2018-01
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Today's Issue:

- CMS Update
 - Survey and Certification Group Name Change
 - QSOG 18-10 - REVISED to Hospitals and CAHs
- QMA Renewal Changes in 2018
- Bed Census for January 1, 2018

CMS Update

Survey and Certification Group Name Change

The CMS Survey and Certification Group (S&C) has a new name: Quality, Safety & Oversight Group (QSOG). The mission of QSOG is to ensure the health and safety of everyone receiving care in Medicare certified facilities. To accomplish this, QSOG must be proactive in demonstrating to providers, suppliers and labs how to achieve and maintain compliance with Medicare health and safety requirements.

To that end, QSOG has placed more information online as a resource for stakeholders, including the [Quality Certification and Oversight Reports website](#). That website is a searchable database that provides quality and safety oversight data to include results of on-site inspections of providers and suppliers. This comparative data may be valuable to providers in developing their Quality Assurance and Performance Improvement (QAPI) Plan. In addition, all of the previously closed surveyor training materials have been made public on the [Integrated Surveyor Training](#) website. Additional information is available at the [Quality, Safety & Oversight Group \(QSOG\) website](#).

CMS regularly releases survey letters that provide guidance to providers on a survey issue. One of the results of the name change will be that the former "Survey & Certification" (SC) letters will be titled with the new name. For example, the latest survey letter is numbered as QSOG 18-10 rather than the former SC 18-10 designation.

Texting of Patient Information: Revised

The recent [ISDH Long Term Care Newsletter 2017-13](#) included SC 18-10-ALL: Texting of Patient Information Among Healthcare Providers. CMS revised their survey letter to clarify that providers affected by this policy are only hospitals and critical access hospitals (CAHs). The guidance does not pertain to nursing homes. The revised document is: [QSOG 18-10 Hospital, CAHs REVISED](#).

Important Change in QMA Renewal for 2018

The following is important information about the renewal of QMA certifications for 2018. Health care facilities are requested to provide this information to facility staff.

In January 2005 the Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) updated the Qualified Medication Aide (QMA) program. The changes included updates to the scope of practice, training curriculum, annual certification renewal, fee, and inservice requirements. Over the last year, the ISDH reviewed the QMA renewal process with a focus on a more efficient and effective renewal procedure. As a result, the ISDH will be making the following changes to the QMA renewals effective with the March 31, 2018 expirations.

1. QMA certifications will expire every two years and match the CNA expiration date.*
2. The \$10.00 QMA renewal fee is **NO** longer required.
3. The QMA Record of Annual Inservice Training Form does **NOT** need to be sent to the Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH).
4. All QMA renewals **MUST** be done online.

* **NOTE** - The 2018 renewal will be matched to the current CNA expiration date. For example, a QMA's certification expires 03/31/2018 and the CNA certification expires 06/15/2018. The QMA must renew their QMA certification by March 31, 2018, as required. The QMA renewal date will be matched with the CNA expiration date of 06/15/2018. On or before 06/15/2018, the individual will renew both the CNA and QMA certification. The new expiration date for both certifications will be 06/15/2020.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- Every QMA must complete at least 6 hours of QMA Annual Inservice Training every year and keep a record of their training.
- The six (6) hours of QMA inservice training must be obtained annually between January 1 and December 31. Beginning January 1, 2018, QMAs should complete their QMA Record of Annual Inservice Training based on training completed during the calendar year.
- The ISDH will continue to review the QMA Record of Annual Inservice Training. This will be done two ways: 1) a random selection of QMAs will be notified by the ISDH to submit their inservice form for review, and 2) surveyors will review QMAs inservice forms during surveys.
- The facility employing a QMA is required to maintain a copy of the QMA Record of Annual Inservice Training form as part of their employment records.

All QMAs will be mailed renewal notices from the Professional Licensing Agency (PLA) in January. The renewal notice will include the below information and online renewal instructions.

- [QUALIFIED MEDICATION AIDE CERTIFICATION RENEWAL NOTICE](#)
- [QMA Record of Annual Inservice Training](#)
- [QMA Scope of Practice](#)

Bed Census for January 1, 2018

The January 1 facility census is due and must be submitted immediately to the ISDH. We still have a number of facilities that have not submitted their data.

All comprehensive and residential care facilities are required to report their actual bed census on January 1 and July 1 of each year. The bed census data is used to determine occupancy rates for each county in determining eligibility for licensing. This data is also important for disaster preparedness in being able to quickly identify counties and facilities with available beds.

The bed census is intended to include all licensed beds, both comprehensive and residential, in the facility including special units such as Alzheimer's/Dementia units or ventilator units. Census information should be reported through the online [ISDH Gateway System](#).

The [Instructions for Bed Census Tracking Process](#) and [Bed Census Reporting Frequently Asked Questions](#) are attached for assistance with reporting.