



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES
Aging and Long-Term Support Administration
PO Box 45600, Olympia, Washington 98504-5600

June 10, 2020
AMENDED February 5, 2021

ALTSA: ICF/IID #2020-020
AMENDED: QSO-20-31-ALL

Dear ICF/IID Superintendent:

AMENDMENTS: On January 4, 2021, CMS released a revised edition of [QSO-20-31-ALL](#). Updates for ICFs/IID, which are effective immediately include: 1) A FAQ section related to health, emergency preparedness and life safety code surveys; 2) An attached list of waived K tags; and 3) Updated contact information. For questions related to survey activities, enforcement and the Emergency Preparedness Survey, contact: QSOG_LifeSafetyCode@cms.hhs.gov.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic began, the Centers for Medicaid/Medicare Services (CMS), in coordination with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), has provided ongoing technical guidance and assistance to all Medicare and Medicaid certified facilities. On June 1, 2020, CMS released [QSO-20-31-All](#) that outlines directives for Nursing Homes and it specifies expanded Survey Activities to include ICF/IID facilities. Accrediting organizations may resume normal survey activities based on state reopening criteria.

The memorandum outlines:

- COVID Reporting requirements for Nursing Homes
- Performance-based funding requirements tied to the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act supplemental grants for State Survey Agencies. Further, providing guidance for the limited resumption of routine survey activities depending on each State's safety levels.
- Enhancement of penalties for noncompliance with enforcement actions are more significant for nursing homes with a history of past infection control deficiencies, or that cause actual harm to residents or Immediate Jeopardy.
- CMS is implementing Quality Improvement Organization Support.
- To transition States to more routine oversight and survey activities, once a state has entered Phase 3 of the Nursing Homes Re-opening guidance [QSO-20-30](#), or earlier, **at the state's discretion**, states are authorized to expand beyond the current survey prioritization (Immediate Jeopardy, Focused Infection Control, and Initial Certification surveys [QSO-20-12-ALL](#)) to perform for **all facility types**:
 - Complaint investigations that are triaged as Non-Immediate Jeopardy-High
 - Revisit surveys of any facility with removed Immediate Jeopardy (but still out of compliance),
 - Special Focus Facility and Special Focus Facility Candidate recertification surveys, and
 - Nursing home and Intermediate Care Facility for individuals with Intellectual Disability (ICF/IID) recertification surveys that are greater than 15 months.

QSO-20-31-ALL is effective immediately and will cease to be in effect when there is no longer a federal Public Health Emergency due to COVID-19.

Dear ICF/IID Superintendent: QSO 20-31-ALL
June 10, 2020 / **AMENDED February 5, 2021**
Page 2

Thank you for your continued commitment to client health and safety. If you have any questions, please contact your local RCS Field Manager

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Anbesse". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Mike Anbesse, Director
Residential Care Services

DSHS: "Transforming Lives"