

# MEMORANDUM

Texas Department of Human Services \* Long Term Care/Policy

**TO:** LTC-R Regional Directors  
Section/Unit Managers

**FROM:** Marc Gold  
Section Manager  
Long Term Care-Policy  
State Office MC: W-519

**SUBJECT:** Regional Survey & Certification Letter #99-20

**DATE:** May 20, 1999

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The attached RS&C Letter is being provided to you for information purposes and should be shared with all professional staff.

- RS&C Letter No. 99-20 -- Effective Date Of Medicare Approval Of The Community Health Accreditation Program (CHAP) Deeming Authority for Hospices; Call Beverly Tucker, Section Manager, Professional Services, at (512) 438-2631.

If you have any questions, please direct inquiries to the individuals or sections listed above.

~Original Signature on File~

Marc Gold

Attachment

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES**  
**Health Care Financing Administration**

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Region VI  
1301 Young Street, Room 833  
Dallas, Texas 75202

May 19, 1999

REGIONAL SURVEY AND CERTIFICATION LETTER NO: 99-20

To: All State Agencies (Information)  
All Title XIX Single State Agencies (Information)

Subject: Effective Date Of Medicare Approval Of The Community Health Accreditation Program (CHAP) Deeming Authority for Hospices

This letter announces the Health Care Financing Administration's recognition of CHAPS's Hospice accreditation program which was found to meet or exceed the Medicare Conditions of Participation (COPs) for Hospices. Hospices notifying the State and HCFA that they wish to participate in the Medicare program may use CHAP accreditation as evidence of meeting Medicare COPs.

#### BACKGROUND

SECTION 1865 (b) of the Social Security Act (the Act) permits providers and suppliers, including hospices, that are accredited by an approved national accrediting body to be "deemed" to meet Medicare's Conditions Of Coverage or Participation. To be approved, accreditation organizations must demonstrate that their requirements are at least as stringent a Medicare's requirements taken as a whole. In making these determinations, HCFA reviews each organization's survey and accrediting processes as well as its health and safety standards to determine that they meet or exceed Medicare requirements.

HCFA announced CHAP's approval as a deemed status accreditation program for hospices in the April 20, 1999, *Federal Register* (copy attached). There is a 90-day waiting period before CHAP's hospice surveys may qualify for Medicare participation. Thus, the earliest date deemed status is available to CHAP accredited hospices is July 19, 1999. CHAP's term of is fifty-four months, or through November 20, 2003.

#### APPROVAL BY REGIONAL OFFICES

Hospices accredited by CHAP should be approved when they meet all Medicare requirements, but no earlier than July 19, 1999. The RO should not go behind CHAP to test for possible standard level deficiencies. Thus, the effective data of the Medicare approval will be the latest of:

- (1) the accreditation for Medicare date;
- (2) the last day of the Medicare survey by CHAP on or after July 19, 12999, or
- (3) satisfaction of Medicare enrollment requirements.

If you have any questions concerning this letter, please contact, Karen Herbelin of my staff at (214) 767-4422.

Sincerely,

~Signature on File~

Calvin G. Cline, Chief  
Survey and Certification Operations Branch  
Division of Medicaid and State Operations

[Enclosure](#)