



COMMISSIONER
Jon Weizenbaum

September 24, 2014

To: Home and Community Support Services Agencies

Subject: **Provider Letter No. 14-27** - The Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS) Acceptance of Accreditation by the Accreditation Commission for Health Care (ACHC) for Licensed Home Health and Hospice Agencies

The purpose of this letter is to inform home and community support services agencies (HCSSAs) that in accordance with provisions of the Texas Health and Safety Code, Chapter 142, DADS will accept accreditation by ACHC in lieu of Regulatory Services licensing survey activity for the categories of licensed home health, licensed and certified home health, and hospice services. This approval does not apply to inpatient hospice facilities or other categories of licensure at this time.

The Texas Health and Safety Code, §142.006(c), provides an exemption to licensing survey activity if DADS finds that a HCSSA has satisfied the requirements for licensing based on accreditation by an accreditation organization whose standards meet or exceed the requirements for licensing in the state. To receive approval, accreditation organizations must demonstrate to DADS that their accreditation standards meet or exceed the Texas state licensing standards adopted under the authority of the Texas Health and Safety Code, Chapter 142.

Based on a review of the ACHC current standards, survey practices, and review procedures for home health and hospice agencies, DADS has determined that the ACHC standards and practices for review of home health and hospice agencies in Texas meet or exceed the minimum licensing standards currently adopted for HCSSAs under Texas Administrative Code, Title 40, Part 1, Chapter 97, Licensing Standards for Home and Community Support Services Agencies.

An agency must continue to seek licensing by DADS and will be subject to complaint visits and enforcement actions in accordance with the state licensing standards at 40 TAC Chapter 97. An agency that loses or voluntarily discontinues its accreditation with any accepted accreditation organization will be subject to immediate licensing survey activity and enforcement.

Sincerely,

[signature on file]

Mary T. Henderson
Assistant Commissioner, Regulatory Services

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