



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES
Home and Community Living Administration
Residential Care Services • P.O. Box 45600 • Olympia, Washington 98504

April 6, 2026

HCLA: NH #2026-015
Revised: QSO-18-12-Deemed Providers/Suppliers

Dear Nursing Home Administrator,

On March 25, 2026, The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) published [QSO 18-12-Deemed Providers/Suppliers-REVISED](#).

CMS states that a provider attains “deemed status” when a CMS-approved accreditation organization (AO) accredits them. Deemed providers are thereafter surveyed by the approved AO. CMS may temporarily remove the deemed status of a provider when a State Agency (SA) or Federal survey team identifies condition-level non-compliance during a survey. When this happens, the CMS location notifies the provider that its deemed status is being removed and it’s being placed under the jurisdiction of the SA. The deemed provider remains under SA jurisdiction until it either brings itself back into substantial compliance with Medicare regulations, or CMS terminates its Medicare participation.

The revised QSO memo provides updated guidance for the following:

- Temporary Removal of Deemed Status due to Non-compliance: AOs must suspend or postpone Medicare deeming recertification surveys until deemed status is restored by the CMS Location.
- Non-deeming Accreditation Surveys: AOs are not prohibited from conducting non-deeming accreditation surveys while an organization is under state jurisdiction; however, CMS recommends that these activities be postponed.
- Complaint Investigation Guidance: CMS provides additional guidance for complaint investigations and coordination among the SAs and AOs.

Please submit questions about this QSO memo to RCSPolicy@dshs.wa.gov

Sincerely,

Amy Abbott, Director
Residential Care Services

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