

Hospital Attestations for New Services and New or Replacement Equipment

The Division of Acute and Ambulatory Care (DAAC) has been evaluating its survey process for some time. We recognize that the demand for surveys has outpaced our staffing resources which on occasion has left hospitals waiting to have occupancy surveys for new services and equipment. Over the past several months, we have been working on an attestation process for hospitals for new services and new or replacement equipment. This included the development of attestation forms, the internal protocols, discussing with staff, and obtaining the necessary approvals. Today I am excited to announce that effective June 5, 2020 hospitals will be able to provide the Department an attestation for the initiation of new services and new or replacement equipment.

The attestation can only be used for the DAAC portion of the occupancy. If the project involves any renovations, new construction, or use of space which has not previously been surveyed by DAAC, the facility will still need to have an onsite for the FGI portion of the project. The Facility will still need to provide the Department with the required notification at least 60 days prior to offering the service or using the equipment.

The Department has created an attestation form for new services and new or replacement equipment. The Department's forms must be used in order for the facility to use the attestation process for new services and new or replacement equipment. The DAAC HFQE Surveyors will review the attestation, provide the facility with approval, and a 2567 will be created for the new services and new or replacement equipment.

The attestation forms have been added to the message board. We will be emailing the forms to hospital password agreement holders and having the forms posted to the Departments Hospital webpage: <https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/facilities/hospitals/Pages/Hospitals.aspx>

Validating Attestations

At the next onsite at the facility, the HFQE will evaluate 20% of the attestations submitted by the facility. If 50% of the evaluated attestations are out of compliance, the HFQE will review 100% of the attestations submitted by the facility since the last time the attestations were evaluated by the field office.

In the event no survey was conducted at the facility during a consecutive 12-month period, the field office shall conduct a special monitoring survey and evaluate 50% of the attestations for the 12-month period. If 50% of the evaluated attestations are out of compliance, the HFQE will review 100% of the attestations submitted by the facility for the past 12 months.

If a facility is found out of compliance, a citation may be written under 28 Pa. Code 103.33 and any other regulations associated with the facility's non-compliance. Depending on the severity of the noncompliance, the Department may impose sanctions, such as suspension of attestation privileges, provisional license, and/or a civil penalty.

Should your hospital have any questions regarding the attestation process please reach out to the DAAC Division Director. The Division Director email address is ggladfelte@pa.gov or by phone 717-783-8980.