AHFSA Members,

We wanted to give AHFSA a heads up in case you start hearing rumblings or receiving calls from ASCs currently under the Institute for Medical Quality’s (IMQ) deemed status accreditation program.  Thank you for being willing to pass this along to the group as needed.

We received notice on Friday that IMQ is voluntarily terminating their accreditation program for ASCs.  They no longer wish to be an AO effective April 2020.  They currently have 60 deemed status ASCs across the nation – mostly situated on the west coast (see breakdown summary below).  They are no longer accepting new applications and are in the process of winding down current operations.  I am meeting with IMQ this afternoon to verify the facilities and all survey data.

**CMS Regional Office breakdown of the 60 deemed status IMQ ASCs**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Region** | **Number of IMQ ASCs** | **Due for Resurvey** |
| 3 | 2 | 1 – fall 2020 |
| 4 | 2 | None until 2022 |
| 5 | 5 | 2 – fall 2020 |
| 6 | 2 | 1 – fall 2020 |
| 9 | 47 | 13 – spring/fall 2020 |
| 10 | 2 | 1 – fall 2020 |

We are in the process of working with OGC to review the regulations and process.  There are timelines for IMQ to notify their ASCs and also timelines for the ASCs to make a decision whether they will default to State Agency authority or choose another AO.  Not all of the ASCs will default to the SA and require a survey within this next year – some will decide to pursue another AO.  However, the summary table above gives an idea of how many ASCs might need a survey in 2020.  I will be gathering the facility specifics this afternoon and plan to send each of the impacted ROs a spreadsheet tomorrow with the individual ASCs, by State, including the status of each.  I will then work with the ROs and SAs to ensure we keep tabs on those impacted ASCs and facilitate on-going monitoring.

I have already received calls from other AOs and individual ASCs – so the word has gotten out about IMQ’s winding down.  We are advising them that they will not automatically lose their Medicare participation once IMQ’s termination becomes effective – but there will be information forthcoming about when and how to proceed in order for continuation.

Association of Health Facility Survey Agencies