

ACCEPTED: New Hospital Requirements to Maintain Alignment with CMS

In December 2013, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) updated its interpretive guidelines and survey procedures for Medicare Condition of Participation (CoP) 482.41(c)(2), which addresses maintaining hospital facilities, supplies, and equipment at an acceptable level of safety and quality.*

CMS's guidance clarifies the circumstances when a hospital may adjust its maintenance, inspection, and testing activities for facility and medical equipment from what is recommended by the manufacturer. As a result of this clarification,

* See <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Provider-Enrollment-and-Certification/SurveyCertificationGenInfo/Downloads/Survey-and-Cert-Letter-14-07.pdf> for more information.

The Joint Commission has determined that two new elements of performance for deemed status **hospitals** are needed.

The new requirements, underlined in the box below, are also available on The Joint Commission website at http://www.jointcommission.org/standards_information/prepublication_standards.aspx. These revisions will be published in the spring 2014 E-dition® update as well as the *2014 Update 1* to the *Comprehensive Accreditation Manual for Hospitals*.

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Official Publication of Joint Commission Requirements

Equipment Maintenance Revisions to Align with CMS

APPLICABLE TO HOSPITALS
Effective July 1, 2014

Environment of Care (EC)

Standard EC.02.04.03
The hospital inspects, tests, and maintains medical equipment.

Element of Performance for EC.02.04.03
A 24. **Ⓢ For hospitals that use Joint Commission accreditation for deemed status purposes:** The hospital inspects, tests, and maintains the following in accordance with manufacturers' recommendations: 

- Medical lasers
- Imaging and radiologic equipment (whether used for diagnostic or therapeutic purposes)
- New medical equipment with insufficient maintenance history to support the use of alternative maintenance strategies

(See also EC.02.04.01, EPs 3 and 4)

Note: Maintenance history includes any of the following documented evidence:

- Records provided by the hospital's contractors

- Information made public by nationally recognized sources
- Records of the hospital's experience over time

Standard EC.02.05.05
The hospital inspects, tests, and maintains utility systems.

Note: At times, maintenance is performed by an external service. In these cases, hospitals are not required to possess maintenance documentation but must have access to such documentation during survey and as needed.

Element of Performance for EC.02.05.05
A 6. **Ⓢ For hospitals that use Joint Commission accreditation for deemed status purposes:** The hospital inspects, tests, and maintains new operating components of utility systems in accordance with manufacturers' recommendations when insufficient maintenance history exists to support the use of alternative maintenance strategies. (See also EC.02.05.01, EPs 3 and 4) 

Note: Maintenance history includes any of the following documented evidence:

- Records provided by the hospital's contractors
- Information made public by nationally recognized sources
- Records of the hospital's experience over time