

Direct services means services provided by employed staff of the CAH, not services provided through arrangements or agreements.

[59 FR 45403, Sept. 1, 1994, as amended at 62 FR 46037, Aug. 29, 1997]

§ 485.603 Rural health network.

A rural health network is an organization that meets the following specifications:

(a) It includes—

(1) At least one hospital that the State has designated or plans to designate as a CAH; and

(2) At least one hospital that furnishes acute care services.

(b) The members of the organization have entered into agreements regarding—

(1) Patient referral and transfer;

(2) The development and use of communications systems, including, where feasible, telemetry systems and systems for electronic sharing of patient data; and

(3) The provision of emergency and nonemergency transportation among members.

(c) Each CAH has an agreement with respect to credentialing and quality assurance with at least—

(1) One hospital that is a member of the network when applicable;

(2) One QIO or equivalent entity; or

(3) One other appropriate and qualified entity identified in the State rural health care plan.

[58 FR 30671, May 26, 1993, as amended at 62 FR 46035, Aug. 29, 1997; 63 FR 26359, May 12, 1998]

§ 485.604 Personnel qualifications.

Staff that furnish services in a CAH must meet the applicable requirements of this section.

(a) *Clinical nurse specialist.* A clinical nurse specialist must be a person who performs the services of a clinical nurse specialist as authorized by the State, in accordance with State law or the State regulatory mechanism provided by State law.

(b) *Nurse practitioner.* A nurse practitioner must be a registered professional nurse who is currently licensed to practice in the State, who meets the State's requirements governing the qualification of nurse practitioners,

and who meets one of the following conditions:

(1) Is currently certified as a primary care nurse practitioner by the American Nurses' Association or by the National Board of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners and Associates.

(2) Has successfully completed a 1 academic year program that—

(i) Prepares registered nurses to perform an expanded role in the delivery of primary care;

(ii) Includes at least 4 months (in the aggregate) of classroom instruction and a component of supervised clinical practice; and

(iii) Awards a degree, diploma, or certificate to persons who successfully complete the program.

(3) Has successfully completed a formal educational program (for preparing registered nurses to perform an expanded role in the delivery of primary care) that does not meet the requirements of paragraph (a)(2) of this section, and has been performing an expanded role in the delivery of primary care for a total of 12 months during the 18-month period immediately preceding June 25, 1993.

(c) *Physician assistant.* A physician assistant must be a person who meets the applicable State requirements governing the qualifications for assistants to primary care physicians, and who meets at least one of the following conditions:

(1) Is currently certified by the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants to assist primary care physicians.

(2) Has satisfactorily completed a program for preparing physician assistants that—

(i) Was at least one academic year in length;

(ii) Consisted of supervised clinical practice and at least 4 months (in the aggregate) of classroom instruction directed toward preparing students to deliver health care; and

(iii) Was accredited by the American Medical Association's Committee on Allied Health Education and Accreditation.

(3) Has satisfactorily completed a formal educational program (for preparing physician assistants) that does

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not meet the requirements of paragraph (c)(2) of this section and has been assisting primary care physicians for a total of 12 months during the 18-month period immediately preceding June 25, 1993.

[58 FR 30671, May 26, 1993, as amended at 62 FR 46037, Aug. 29, 1997]

§ 485.606 Designation and certification of CAHs.

(a) *Criteria for State designation.* (1) A State that has established a Medicare rural hospital flexibility program described in section 1820(c) of the Act may designate one or more facilities as CAHs if each facility meets the CAH conditions of participation in this subpart F.

(2) The State must not deny any hospital that is otherwise eligible for designation as a CAH under this paragraph (a) solely because the hospital has entered into an agreement under which the hospital may provide posthospital SNF care as described in § 482.66 of this chapter.

(b) *Criteria for CMS certification.* CMS certifies a facility as a CAH if—

(1) The facility is designated as a CAH by the State in which it is located and has been surveyed by the State survey agency or by CMS and found to meet all conditions of participation in this Part and all other applicable requirements for participation in Part 489 of this chapter.

(2) The facility is a medical assistance facility operating in Montana or a rural primary care hospital designated by CMS before August 5, 1997, and is otherwise eligible to be designated as a CAH by the State under the rules in this subpart.

[62 FR 46036, Aug. 29, 1997, as amended at 63 FR 26359, May 12, 1998]

§ 485.608 Condition of participation: Compliance with Federal, State, and local laws and regulations.

The CAH and its staff are in compliance with applicable Federal, State and local laws and regulations.

(a) *Standard: Compliance with Federal laws and regulations.* The CAH is in compliance with applicable Federal laws and regulations related to the health and safety of patients.

(b) *Standard: Compliance with State and local laws and regulations.* All patient care services are furnished in accordance with applicable State and local laws and regulations.

(c) *Standard: Licensure of CAH.* The CAH is licensed in accordance with applicable Federal, State and local laws and regulations.

(d) *Standard: Licensure, certification or registration of personnel.* Staff of the CAH are licensed, certified, or registered in accordance with applicable Federal, State, and local laws and regulations.

[58 FR 30671, May 26, 1993, as amended at 62 FR 46037, Aug. 29, 1997]

§ 485.610 Condition of participation: Status and location.

(a) *Standard: Status.* The facility is—

(1) A currently participating hospital that meets all conditions of participation set forth in this subpart;

(2) A recently closed facility, provided that the facility—

(i) Was a hospital that ceased operations on or after the date that is 10 years before November 29, 1999; and

(ii) Meets the criteria for designation under this subpart as of the effective date of its designation; or

(3) A health clinic or a health center (as defined by the State) that—

(i) Is licensed by the State as a health clinic or a health center;

(ii) Was a hospital that was downsized to a health clinic or a health center; and

(iii) As of the effective date of its designation, meets the criteria for designation set forth in this subpart.

(b) *Standard: Location in a rural area or treatment as rural.* The CAH meets the requirements of either paragraph (b)(1) or (b)(2) of this section.

(1) The CAH meets the following requirements:

(i) The CAH is located outside any area that is a Metropolitan Statistical Area, as defined by the Office of Management and Budget, or that has been recognized as urban under § 412.62(f) of this chapter;

(ii) The CAH is not deemed to be located in an urban area under § 412.63(b) of this chapter; and

(iii) The CAH has not been classified as an urban hospital for purposes of the