

**§ 418.66 Condition of participation—
Quality assurance.**

A hospice must conduct an ongoing, comprehensive, integrated, self-assessment of the quality and appropriateness of care provided, including inpatient care, home care and care provided under arrangements. The findings are used by the hospice to correct identified problems and to revise hospice policies if necessary. Those responsible for the quality assurance program must—

- (a) Implement and report on activities and mechanisms for monitoring the quality of patient care;
- (b) Identify and resolve problems; and
- (c) Make suggestions for improving patient care.

**§ 418.68 Condition of participation—
Interdisciplinary group.**

The hospice must designate an interdisciplinary group or groups composed of individuals who provide or supervise the care and services offered by the hospice.

(a) *Standard: Composition of group.* The hospice must have an interdisciplinary group or groups that include at least the following individuals who are employees of the hospice:

- (1) A doctor of medicine or osteopathy.
- (2) A registered nurse.
- (3) A social worker.
- (4) A pastoral or other counselor.

(b) *Standard: Role of group.* The interdisciplinary group is responsible for—

- (1) Participation in the establishment of the plan of care;
- (2) Provision or supervision of hospice care and services;
- (3) Periodic review and updating of the plan of care for each individual receiving hospice care; and
- (4) Establishment of policies governing the day-to-day provision of hospice care and services.

(c) If a hospice has more than one interdisciplinary group, it must designate in advance the group it chooses to execute the functions described in paragraph (b)(4) of this section.

(d) *Standard: Coordinator.* The hospice must designate a registered nurse to coordinate the implementation of the plan of care for each patient.

**§ 418.70 Condition of participation—
Volunteers.**

The hospice in accordance with the numerical standards, specified in paragraph (e) of this section, uses volunteers, in defined roles, under the supervision of a designated hospice employee.

(a) *Standard: Training.* The hospice must provide appropriate orientation and training that is consistent with acceptable standards of hospice practice.

(b) *Standard: Role.* Volunteers must be used in administrative or direct patient care roles.

(c) *Standard: Recruiting and retaining.* The hospice must document active and ongoing efforts to recruit and retain volunteers.

(d) *Standard: Cost saving.* The hospice must document the cost savings achieved through the use of volunteers. Documentation must include—

(1) The identification of necessary positions which are occupied by volunteers;

(2) The work time spent by volunteers occupying those positions; and

(3) Estimates of the dollar costs which the hospice would have incurred if paid employees occupied the positions identified in paragraph (d)(1) for the amount of time specified in paragraph (d)(2).

(e) *Standard: Level of activity.* A hospice must document and maintain a volunteer staff sufficient to provide administrative or direct patient care in an amount that, at a minimum, equals 5 percent of the total patient care hours of all paid hospice employees and contract staff. The hospice must document a continuing level of volunteer activity. Expansion of care and services achieved through the use of volunteers, including the type of services and the time worked, must be recorded.

(f) *Standard: Availability of clergy.* The hospice must make reasonable efforts to arrange for visits of clergy and other members of religious organizations in the community to patients who request such visits and must advise patients of this opportunity.

**§ 418.72 Condition of participation—
Licensure.**

The hospice and all hospice employees must be licensed in accordance

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with applicable Federal, State and local laws and regulations.

(a) *Standard: Licensure of program.* If State or local law provides for licensing of hospices, the hospice must be licensed.

(b) *Standard: Licensure of employees.* Employees who provide services must be licensed, certified or registered in accordance with applicable Federal or State laws.

**§418.74 Condition of participation—
Central clinical records.**

In accordance with accepted principles of practice, the hospice must establish and maintain a clinical record for every individual receiving care and services. The record must be complete, promptly and accurately documented, readily accessible and systematically organized to facilitate retrieval.

(a) *Standard: Content.* Each clinical record is a comprehensive compilation of information. Entries are made for all services provided. Entries are made and signed by the person providing the services. The record includes all services whether furnished directly or under arrangements made by the hospice. Each individual's record contains—

- (1) The initial and subsequent assessments;
- (2) The plan of care;
- (3) Identification data;
- (4) Consent and authorization and election forms;
- (5) Pertinent medical history; and
- (6) Complete documentation of all services and events (including evaluations, treatments, progress notes, etc.).

(b) *Standard: Protection of information.* The hospice must safeguard the clinical record against loss, destruction and unauthorized use.

**Subpart D—Conditions of
Participation: Core Services**

**§418.80 Condition of participation—
Furnishing of core services.**

Except as permitted in §418.83, a hospice must ensure that substantially all the core services described in this subpart are routinely provided directly by hospice employees. A hospice may use contracted staff if necessary to supplement hospice employees in order to

meet the needs of patients during periods of peak patient loads or under extraordinary circumstances. If contracting is used, the hospice must maintain professional, financial, and administrative responsibility for the services and must assure that the qualifications of staff and services provided meet the requirements specified in this subpart.

[52 FR 7416, Mar. 11, 1987, as amended at 55 FR 50835, Dec. 11, 1990]

**§418.82 Condition of participation—
Nursing services.**

The hospice must provide nursing care and services by or under the supervision of a registered nurse.

(a) Nursing services must be directed and staffed to assure that the nursing needs of patients are met.

(b) Patient care responsibilities of nursing personnel must be specified.

(c) Services must be provided in accordance with recognized standards of practice.

**§418.83 Nursing services—Waiver of
requirement that substantially all
nursing services be routinely provided
directly by a hospice.**

(a) CMS may approve a waiver of the requirement in §418.80 for nursing services provided by a hospice which is located in a non-urbanized area. The location of a hospice that operates in several areas is considered to be the location of its central office. The hospice must provide evidence that it was operational on or before January 1, 1983, and that it made a good faith effort to hire a sufficient number of nurses to provide services directly. CMS bases its decision as to whether to approve a waiver application on the following:

(1) The current Bureau of the Census designations for determining non-urbanized areas.

(2) Evidence that a hospice was operational on or before January 1, 1983 including:

(i) Proof that the organization was established to provide hospice services on or before January 1, 1983;

(ii) Evidence that hospice-type services were furnished to patients on or before January 1, 1983; and

(iii) Evidence that the hospice care was a discrete activity rather than an