
42 C.F.R. § 485.616

Condition of participation: Agreements.

(a) *Standard: Agreements with network hospitals.* In the case of a CAH that is a member of a rural health network as defined in § 485.603 of this chapter, the CAH has in effect an agreement with at least one hospital that is a member of the network for —

- (1) Patient referral and transfer;
- (2) The development and use of communications systems of the network, including the network's system for the electronic sharing of patient data, and telemetry and medical records, if the network has in operation such a system; and
- (3) The provision of emergency and nonemergency transportation between the facility and the hospital.

(b) *Standard: Agreements for credentialing and quality assurance.* Each CAH that is a member of a rural health network shall have an agreement with respect to credentialing and quality assurance with at least —

- (1) One hospital that is a member of the network;
- (2) One QIO or equivalent entity; or
- (3) One other appropriate and qualified entity identified in the State rural health care plan.

(c) *Standard: Agreements for credentialing and privileging of telemedicine physicians and practitioners.* (1) The governing body of the CAH must ensure that, when telemedicine services are furnished to the CAH's patients through an agreement with a distant-site hospital, the agreement is written and specifies that it is the responsibility of the governing body of the distant-site hospital to meet the following requirements with regard to its physicians or practitioners providing telemedicine services:

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