

May 16, 2012

TO: Article 28 Hospitals with OASAS-certified Part 818 and Part 816 programs

RE: ANNOUNCEMENT of “DEEMING INITIATIVE”

OASAS is pleased to advise you of a change to the NYS Mental Hygiene Law regarding the inspection and subsequent licensure by the Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS) of OASAS-certified Part 818 and Part 816 programs operated by a general hospital.

Effective April 1, 2011, Section 32.14 of the Mental Hygiene Law allows OASAS to accept the accreditation survey of the chemical dependence treatment programs conducted by The Joint Commission (TJC) and other qualified organizations in lieu of a separate licensing survey conducted by OASAS. Although authorized to accept the surveys of other qualified hospital accrediting organizations in addition to TJC, OASAS has only reached agreement with TJC at this time. Efforts are currently underway to develop similar agreements with other hospital accrediting organizations to which the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) have granted deeming status. OASAS will notify providers if and when similar agreements are reached with other hospital accrediting organizations.

Qualifying hospitals will have the option to choose either the TJC accreditation process or the OASAS survey process for renewal of the operating certificate for their chemical dependence treatment program. To be eligible to participate, all of the hospital's OASAS certified programs must have an OASAS Operating Certificate with a duration of at least two (2) years. For those who choose the TJC deeming option, the renewal of the Operating Certificate for the Part 818 and/or Part 816 program(s) will be issued by OASAS based on the accreditation of the hospital by TJC.

To assist you in choosing the best option for your program, please be advised of the following:

- TJC will include a surveyor with knowledge and experience in behavioral health on the hospital survey team to conduct the survey of the Part 818 and/or Part 816 program(s);
- The amount of days required for the chemical dependence treatment program survey will be determined by TJC based on the volume and population of the Part 818 and/or Part 816 program(s);
- In addition to surveying for compliance with TJC standards, the surveyor will also use a survey addendum (see attached) containing several requirements from the OASAS regulations specific to Part 818 and/or Part 816 program(s);
- TJC will provide OASAS with a copy of the final accreditation report;
- It is the responsibility of the hospital to provide a copy of the final accreditation report to the local government unit, if requested;
- OASAS will issue the renewal Operating Certificate for the Part 818 and/or Part 816 program(s) based on the results of the accreditation survey;
- OASAS will accept the accreditation report and post survey follow-up activities of TJC in lieu of conducting routine recertification reviews; and
- TJC is developing a process for eligible hospitals to choose to use the accreditation survey in lieu of an OASAS recertification review at the time of application.

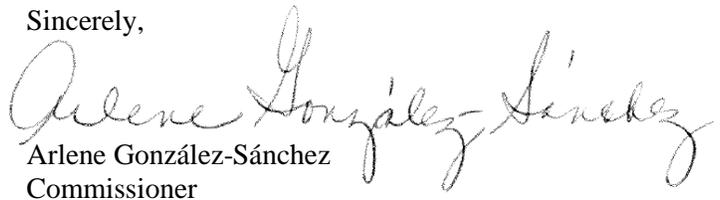
Accredited hospitals that are interested in participating in this initiative should fill out the attached Deeming Attestation Form and return it to OASAS Certification Bureau at the address on this letterhead. Please also be advised that OASAS retains the right to conduct validation and any other unannounced on-site visits to all certified programs. In addition, Mental Hygiene Law requires a hospital to notify OASAS of the loss of accreditation or notification by CMS of termination from the Medicare program.

For eligible hospitals receiving TJC accreditation between April 1, 2011 and the date of this notice, OASAS will be offering the option of receiving a limited OASAS recertification visit focusing on TJC Survey Addendum. Based on acceptable findings, an operating certificate would then be issued to coincide with TJC accreditation period.

OASAS is very pleased to offer this option to hospitals and to collaborate with TJC, the Healthcare Association of New York State (HANYYS) and the Greater New York Hospital Association (GNYHA) on a means to reduce duplication of efforts while maintaining the highest standards for quality care for the individuals we all serve.

If you have any questions, please contact Charles Monson, Division of Quality Assurance and Performance Improvement at (518) 485-2257.

Sincerely,



Arlene González-Sánchez
Commissioner

Enclosures: Attestation Form
Survey Addendum

cc: Kathleen Caggiano-Siino
Robert A. Kent
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