

**Center for Clinical Standards and Quality**

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**Ref: QSO-22-18-ALL**

**Date:** June 16, 2022

**To:** State Survey Agency Directors

**From:** Directors, Quality, Safety & Oversight Group (QSOG) and Survey & Operations Group (SOG)

**Subject:** Rescission of the January 25, 2022 memo regarding Vaccination Expectations for Surveyors Performing Federal Oversight (QSO-22-10-ALL) and removal from its guidance repository

**Memorandum Summary**

CMS is rescinding and hereby removing the January 25, 2022 Memo regarding *Vaccination Expectations for Surveyors Performing Federal Oversight (QSO-22-10-ALL)* from HHS's guidance repository.

**Discussion**

CMS is rescinding QSO 22-10-ALL. As stated in the original guidance document, "State Survey Agencies and [Accrediting Organizations] are ultimately responsible for compliance with this expectation." The federal government has explained that the guidance does not include any possibility of penalties for noncompliance, and further prohibits facilities from inquiring about surveyor vaccination status. We understand that there is nonetheless some ongoing confusion about this guidance, which we expect this rescission will resolve.

We commend all the entities who have established COVID-19 vaccination programs for their surveyors, and we continue to encourage vaccination of surveyors performing federal oversight surveys. Any questions about state survey agency or Accrediting Organization vaccination programs should be directed to those entities.

/s/

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