



STATE OF MARYLAND

DHMH

Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
Office of Health Care Quality
Spring Grove Center • Bland Bryant Building
55 Wade Avenue • Baltimore, Maryland 21228-4663

Martin O'Malley, Governor – Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor – Joshua M. Sharfstein, M.D., Secretary

TRANSMITTAL

TO: Maryland Home Health Agencies

FROM: Nancy B. Grimm, RN, JD *NBG*
Director, OHCQ

RE: Approval of The Joint Commission (TJC) as Home
Health Agency Accrediting Organization for State Licensing Purposes

DATE: February 7, 2011

I am pleased to announce that The Joint Commission (TJC) has been approved by the Secretary as an accrediting organization for Home Health Agencies (HHAs) and has been granted deeming authority for state licensure purposes. TJC's approval as an accrediting organization means that, effective July 1, 2011, HHAs accredited by TJC are deemed to comply with Maryland State licensure requirements and are exempt from routine licensure surveys conducted by the Department. To remain licensed, deemed HHAs must continue to submit a renewal application and comply with applicable Maryland Health Care Commission requirements. With the application, the licensee seeking deemed status must submit its currently applicable TJC inspection results and all supporting documentation.

Please note that the Department retains jurisdiction to inspect an accredited and deemed home health agency under circumstances including to follow up on any serious problem identified by an approved accreditation organization; to investigate a complaint; and to determine compliance with any quality requirement or to validate the findings of an approved accreditation organization. Md. Code Ann., Health-Gen. § 19-2302.

To be approved for deeming, an accrediting organization must establish to the Secretary that its standards are equal to or more stringent than existing State requirements. The Department also evaluates the survey or inspection process to ensure the integrity of the inspection process and enters into a formal written information sharing agreement.

If you have any questions, please contact Barbara Fagan, Program Manager of the Ambulatory Care Unit, bfagan@dhhm.state.md.us.

cc: Jennifer Hoppe – The Joint Commission
Maryland National Capital Homecare Association
Maryland Health Care Commission
Barbara Fagan, Program Manager, Ambulatory Care

HHA – 02-07-11/01