

Jan. 4, 2016

TO: *California Hospital Survey Manual Purchaser*

FROM: Lois J. Richardson, Esq.
Vice President, Legal Publications and Education

SUBJECT: *Important Changes to the CDPH Relicensing Survey Process*

Thank you for purchasing the *2015 California Hospital Survey Manual: A Guide to the Licensing & Certification Survey Process*. This edition reflects the California Department of Public Health's (CDPH) new hospital relicensing survey process that will be rolled out to all California hospitals starting March 2016.

Significant changes from the previous edition of the manual include:

- CDPH is no longer participating in Consolidated Accreditation and Licensure (CALs) surveys. Hospitals that are accredited by The Joint Commission (TJC) will have two separate surveys: one by TJC (with or without the Institute for Medical Quality, depending on the hospital's preference) and a separate "Relicensing Survey" conducted by CDPH. Starting in March, the relicensing surveys will replace the Patient Safety Licensing Surveys and Medication Error Reduction Plan surveys for all hospitals, whether or not they are accredited by TJC.
- An expanded discussion of surveyor rights and restrictions regarding access to peer review materials, attorney-client privileged materials, and Patient Safety Work Product.
- Explanation of changes to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) policies and procedures regarding investigating complaints against hospitals. Notably, some complaints are now referred by CMS to the accreditation agency for investigation.
- New charts and instruction sheets to calculate the amount of administrative penalties that CDPH may assess, and that summarize the differences between a state immediate jeopardy deficiency and a federal immediate jeopardy deficiency.

CHA members with questions regarding this memorandum or the content of the manual may contact me at (916) 552-7611 or lrichardson@calhospital.org.