

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

**Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**

[CDC–2018–0007; Docket Number NIOSH–307]

**Final National Occupational Research Agenda for Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishing**

**AGENCY:** National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

**ACTION:** Notice of availability.

**SUMMARY:** NIOSH announces the availability of the final *National Occupational Research Agenda for Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishing*.

**DATES:** The final document was published on June 8, 2018.

**ADDRESSES:** The document may be obtained at the following link: <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/nora/councils/agff/research.html>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Emily Novicki, M.A., M.P.H., (NORACoordinator@cdc.gov), National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Mailstop E–20, 1600 Clifton Road NE, Atlanta, GA 30329, phone (404) 498–2581 (not a toll free number).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On January 17, 2018, NIOSH published a request for public review in the **Federal Register** [83 FR 2447] of the draft version of the *National Occupational Research Agenda for Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishing*. The comment received expressed support for the Agenda.

Dated: June 11, 2018.

**Frank J. Hearl,**

Chief of Staff, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

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**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

**Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services**

[CMS–3360–PN]

**Medicare and Medicaid Programs: Application From the Community Health Accreditation Partner for Continued CMS Approval of Its Hospice Accreditation Program**

**AGENCY:** Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, HHS.

**ACTION:** Proposed notice.

**SUMMARY:** This proposed notice acknowledges the receipt of an application from the Community Health Accreditation Partner (CHAP) for continued recognition as a national accrediting organization for hospices that wish to participate in the Medicare or Medicaid programs.

**DATES:** To be assured consideration, comments must be received at one of the addresses provided below, no later than 5 p.m. on July 16, 2018.

**ADDRESSES:** In commenting, please refer to file code CMS–3360–PN. Because of staff and resource limitations, we cannot accept comments by facsimile (FAX) transmission.

Comments, including mass comment submissions, must be submitted in one of the following three ways (please choose only one of the ways listed):

1. *Electronically.* You may submit electronic comments on this regulation to <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the “Submit a comment” instructions.
2. *By regular mail.* You may mail written comments to the following address ONLY: Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, Attention: CMS–3360–PN, P.O. Box 8010, Baltimore, MD 21244–8010.

Please allow sufficient time for mailed comments to be received before the close of the comment period.

3. *By express or overnight mail.* You may send written comments to the following address ONLY: Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, Attention: CMS–3360–PN, Mail Stop C4–26–05, 7500 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, MD 21244–1850.

For information on viewing public comments, see the beginning of the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Lillian Williams, (410) 786–8636, Monda Shaver, (410) 786–3410, or Marie Vasbinder, (410) 786–8665.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** *Inspection of Public Comments:* All comments

received before the close of the comment period are available for viewing by the public, including any personally identifiable or confidential business information that is included in a comment. We post all comments received before the close of the comment period on the following website as soon as possible after they have been received: <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the search instructions on that website to view public comments.

**I. Background**

Under the Medicare program, eligible beneficiaries may receive covered services in a hospice provided certain requirements are met by the hospice. Sections 1861(dd) of the Social Security Act (the Act) establishes distinct criteria for facilities seeking designation as a hospice. Regulations concerning provider agreements are at 42 CFR part 489 and those pertaining to activities relating to the survey and certification of facilities are at 42 CFR part 488. The regulations at 42 CFR part 418, specify the conditions that a hospice must meet in order to participate in the Medicare program, the scope of covered services and the conditions for Medicare payment for hospices.

Generally, to enter into an agreement, a hospice must first be certified by a State survey agency as complying with the conditions or requirements set forth in part 418. Thereafter, the hospice is subject to regular surveys by a State survey agency to determine whether it continues to meet these requirements.

However, there is an alternative to surveys by state agencies. Section 1865(a)(1) of the Act provides that, if a provider entity demonstrates through accreditation by an approved national accrediting organization that all applicable Medicare conditions are met or exceeded, we will deem those provider entities as having met the requirements. Accreditation by an accrediting organization is voluntary and is not required for Medicare participation.

If an accrediting organization is recognized by the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services as having standards for accreditation that meet or exceed Medicare requirements, any provider entity accredited by the national accrediting body’s approved program would be deemed to meet the Medicare conditions. A national accrediting organization applying for deeming authority under part 488, subpart A, must provide the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) with reasonable assurance that the