Department of Health & Human Services
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
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Center for Clinical Standards and Quality / Quality, Safety & Oversight Group

Advanced Diagnostic Imaging (ADI) Accreditation Provisional Accreditation Policy

NOTE:

THIS POLICY APPLIES ONLY TO EXISTING ADI SUPPLIES THAT ALREADY PROVIDE ADI SERVICES AND THAT ARE ALREADY ACCREDITED BY A CMS-APPROVED ADI ACCREDITING ORGANIZATION (ADI AO).

THIS POLICY DOES NOT APPLY TO NEW ADI SUPPLIER THAT HAVE NOT PREVIOUSLY PROVIDED ADI SERVICES AND HAVE NOT YET BEEN ACCREDITED BY A CMS-APPROVED ADI AO.

Section 135(a) of the Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act of 2008 (MIPPA), which amended the Social Security Act (hereinafter referred to as "the Act") by adding §1834(e), provide that, beginning on January 1, 2012, in order to receive payment for the technical component of advanced diagnostic imaging (ADI) services furnished to Medicare beneficiaries, the suppliers of ADI services must be accredited by a CMS-approved ADI accrediting organization (AO). An ADI supplier is defined by §135 of MIPPA and §1834(e) of the Social Security Act as those for which payment is made under the fee schedule established under section 1848(b) (that is the physician fee schedule).

Section 1861(d) of the Act defines ADI suppliers as including any physician, non-physician practitioners and independent diagnostic testing facilities that provide ADI services. ADI services are defined by §1834(e) (1)(B) of the Act as including the technical component of diagnostic magnetic resonance imaging, computed tomography, and nuclear medicine (including positron emission tomography (PET) and excluding regular X-rays, ultrasound, fluoroscopy, and mammography.

Section 135 of MIPPA and §1834(e) of the Act specifically state that ***"payment may only be made if such supplier is accredited by an accreditation organization designated by the Secretary."*** Because of the wording of these statutes, Medicare ***does not*** have the authority to pay ADI suppliers unless they are already accredited by a CMS-approved accrediting organization. In other words, CMS ***cannot*** grant a "grace period" to ADI suppliers to allow them to get paid for services furnished to Medicare beneficiaries while they are waiting for their initial accreditation to be approved.

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However, these statutes do not require that the accreditation of an already Medicare enrolled and accredited ADI supplier apply only to a particular location or particular modality. Therefore, if an already Medicare enrolled and accredited ADI supplier wishes to add additional ADI equipment or expand its services by location or modality, that supplier will be given a time frame of 120 days (called the "provisional accreditation period") from the date the new ADI location opened or the new ADI equipment or modality was placed into service (first utilized) to receive additional accreditation for that new ADI location, new ADI equipment, or new ADI modality. After expiration of the 120-day provisional accreditation period, claims submitted by the ADI supplier for services furnished at the new ADI location or using the new ADI equipment, or new ADI modality will be denied due to lack of accreditation.

Requirements to Qualify for the 120-day Provisional Accreditation Period:

In order to qualify for the 120-day provisional accreditation period, an ADI supplier must:

1. Already be enrolled in the Medicare program,

2. Already have accreditation from one of the CMS-approved ADI accreditation organization (AO) for one or more existing ADI facilities, ADI equipment and ADI (modalities) services they currently provide,

3. Maintain the current accreditation on their existing ADI location(s), existing ADI equipment, and existing ADI modalities throughout the entire 120-day provisional accreditation period.

Procedure for Requesting the 120-day Provisional Accreditation Period:

To request the 120-day provisional accreditation period, the ADI supplier should contact their ADI AO to:

1. Request new accreditation for the new location, new ADI equipment or new ADI modality as soon as possible.

2. To request the 120-day provisional accreditation period for the new location, new ADI equipment or new ADI modality.

3. Provide their ADI AO with documentation of the new ADI location, or new ADI equipment or modalities being added.

    - **For new ADI locations:**

      The ADI supplier must provide documentation to show that the new location is under the same ownership as the original location.

- **<u>For new ADI equipment or modalities:</u>**

  The ADI supplier must provide information about the new ADI equipment or modality such as bill of sale, purchase agreement, rental agreement, maintenance contract, manufacturer's name, model name, model number, NEMA XR-29 status (for CT systems) and any other information requested by the AO.

4. The AO will process the ADI supplier's request for new accreditation for the new ADI location, new ADI equipment or modality in accordance with its policies.

5. The AO will review the ADI supplier's request for 120-day provisional accreditation period and notify CMS of the start and ends dates of the provisional accreditation period, if they find that the ADI supplier meets the requirements.