



Dear Valued Customer,

ARKRAY is dedicated to providing you the latest information on our products used in professional healthcare settings and the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19).

On March 23rd, 2020 the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) released a memorandum to State Survey Agency Directors to address Prioritization of Survey Activities during the COVID-19 outbreak. Please note the attached PDF titled *QSO-20-20* with this update.

How does this affect your facility?

In this update, CMS announces a COVID-19 Focused Survey for Nursing Homes that will be used by surveyors for a possible F880 citation.

On Friday, March 13, 2020, the President declared a national emergency, which triggers the Secretary's ability to authorize waivers or modifications of certain requirements pursuant to section 1135 of the Social Security Act (the Act). Under section 1135(b)(5) of the Act, CMS is prioritizing surveys by authorizing modification of timetables and deadlines for the performance of certain required activities, delaying revisit surveys, and generally exercising enforcement discretion for three weeks.

During this three-week timeframe, as it relates to Infection Control, below is one of the following surveys that will be prioritized and conducted:

Targeted Infection Control Surveys: Federal CMS and State surveyors will conduct targeted Infection Control surveys of providers identified through collaboration with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the HHS Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR). They will use a streamlined review checklist to minimize the impact on provider activities, while ensuring providers are implementing actions to protect the health and safety of individuals to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Below is an excerpt on blood glucose meter systems in this survey (Infection Control Section, pages 10-11 of attached memorandum)

General Standard Precautions

- Respiratory hygiene/cough etiquette,
- Environmental cleaning and disinfection, and
- Reprocessing of reusable resident medical equipment (e.g., cleaning and disinfection of glucometers per device and disinfectant manufacturer's instructions for use)?



CMS requires that blood glucose meters being used for multiple patients be cleaned and disinfected between each use. It is critical to follow blood glucose meter cleaning and disinfecting guidelines to ensure that the blood glucose meter is properly cared for and the proper technique is being used to prevent the spread of infectious diseases.

ARKRAY understands the importance of infection control in relation to COVID-19. As your *Diabetes Health Ally*, we will continue to monitor the situation and update you should new information become available.

If you have any questions, please contact your ARKRAY representative or ARKRAY Technical Customer Service, at 800.818.8877.

Thank you,

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