Policy Changes Announced for Preliminary Denial of Accreditation PDA02 Decisions

The Joint Commission recently established a program for organizations that receive Preliminary Denial of Accreditation (PDA) decision PDA02, which is a decision based on significant and pervasive patterns of noncompliant standards.

As an improvement organization, The Joint Commission is committed to working with these organizations to achieve sustainable improvements. To that end, the following have been established as the key features of this program:

- An acceptable Evidence of Standards Compliance (ESC) must be submitted within 30 days and must address the Requirements for Improvement (RFIs) identified as the drivers of the PDA decision.
- Upon approval of the ESC, an on-site ESC survey will be conducted.
- If Condition-level findings are identified, a Medicare Deficiency Survey must be conducted within 45 days. The organization will have the option of combining this survey with the on-site ESC survey.
- A successful on-site ESC survey will lead to a change in

the accreditation decision from PDA to Accreditation with Follow-up Survey (AFS).

- A conference call with the Joint Commission’s and the organization’s leadership will be conducted to review the areas of risk and available Joint Commission resources.
- The organization’s leadership is required to participate in the Intracycle Monitoring (ICM) process, which occurs at 12 and 24 months.
- The organization’s next triennial survey will occur in the earlier segment of the 18-to-33–month window.
- Should the organization’s next triennial survey result in a repeat PDA decision, the organization will receive a recommendation for Denial of Accreditation (DA) with the opportunity of an expedited appeal.

This program is intended to support organizations in making improvements necessary to ensure sustainability.
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