

May 7, 2020

CMS 1135

On 4/29/20 CMS issued a new list of blanket waivers that providers can use during the COVID-19 pandemic and emergency declaration. The link to the full document is here:

<https://www.cms.gov/files/document/summary-covid-19-emergency-declaration-waivers.pdf>

The section for physical environment waivers starts on page 23. That section contains a couple of bullets related to inspection, testing and maintenance of various systems that exist in a building. The language for the blanket waiver, in part, is “CMS is temporarily modifying these requirements to the extent necessary to permit these facilities to adjust scheduled inspection, testing and maintenance (ITM) frequencies and activity for activities and medical equipment.”

CMS is **not** recommending a revised testing schedule for the various systems. The schedule that was released by another entity is not from CMS and was not developed in consultation with CMS. Under the blanket waiver, CMS is asking each provider to evaluate their individual situation and if the facility feels there is a need to adjust the ITM schedule due to the pandemic, they’re permitted to do so.

That being said, the bullet immediately after lists five items that were determined to be too critical to waive. These items are **not** part of the blanket waiver and facilities must find a way to safely adhere to the ITM requirements.

Lastly, fire drills are not an activity covered under this blanket waiver and therefore are not currently waived.

Thank You,

Office of the State Fire Marshal