§ 485.618 Condition of participation: Emergency services.

The CAH provides emergency care necessary to meet the needs of its inpatients and outpatients.

(a) Standard: Availability. Emergency services are available on a 24-hours a day basis.

(b) Standard: Equipment, supplies, and medication. Equipment, supplies, and medication used in treating emergency cases are kept at the CAH and are readily available for treating emergency cases. The items available must include the following:

(1) Drugs and biologicals commonly used in life-saving procedures, including analgesics, local anesthetics, antibiotics, anticonvulsants, antidotes and emetics, serums and toxoids, antiarrhythmics, cardiac glycosides, antihypertensives, diuretics, and electrolytes and replacement solutions.

(2) Equipment and supplies commonly used in life-saving procedures, including airways, endotracheal tubes, ambu bag/valve/mask, oxygen, tourniquets, immobilization devices, nasogastric tubes, splints, IV therapy supplies, suction machine, defibrillator, cardiac monitor, chest tubes, and indwelling urinary catheters.

(c) Standard: Blood and blood products. The facility provides, either directly or under arrangements, the following:

(1) Services for the procurement, safekeeping, and transfusion of blood, including the availability of blood products needed for emergencies on a 24-hours a day basis.

(2) Blood storage facilities that meet the requirements of 42 CFR part 493, subpart K, and are under the control and supervision of a pathologist or other qualified doctor of medicine or osteopathy. If blood banking services are provided under an arrangement, the arrangement is approved by the facility's medical staff and by the persons directly responsible for the operation of the facility.

(d) Standard: Personnel. (1) Except as specified in paragraph (d)(3) of this section, there must be a doctor of medicine or osteopathy, a physician assistant, a nurse practitioner, or a clinical nurse specialist, with training or experience in emergency care, on call and immediately available by telephone or radio contact, and available on site within the following timeframes:

(i) Within 30 minutes, on a 24-hour a day basis, if the CAH is located in an area other than an area described in paragraph (d)(1)(ii) of this section; or

(ii) Within 60 minutes, on a 24-hour a day basis, if all of the following requirements are met:

(A) The CAH is located in an area designated as a frontier area (that is, an area with fewer than six residents per square mile based on the latest population data published by the Bureau of the Census) or in an area that meets the criteria for a remote location adopted by the State in its rural health care plan, and approved by CMS, under section 1820(b) of the Act.

(B) The State has determined, under criteria in its rural health care plan, that allowing an emergency response time longer than 30 minutes is the only feasible method of providing emergency care to residents of the area served by the CAH.

(C) The State maintains documentation showing that the response time of up to 60 minutes at a particular CAH it designates is justified because other available alternatives would increase the time needed to stabilize a patient in an emergency.

(2) A registered nurse with training and experience in emergency care can be utilized to conduct specific medical screening examinations only if—

(i) The registered nurse is on site and immediately available at the CAH when a patient requests medical care; and

(ii) The nature of the patient’s request for medical care is within the scope of practice of a registered nurse and consistent with applicable State laws and the CAH’s bylaws or rules and regulations.

(3) A registered nurse satisfies the personnel requirement specified in paragraph (d)(1) of this section for a temporary period if—

(i) The CAH has no greater than 10 beds;

(ii) The CAH is located in an area designated as a frontier area or remote location as described in paragraph (d)(1)(ii)(A) of this section; and

(iii) The State in which the CAH is located submits a letter to CMS signed
§ 485.623 Condition of participation: \Pp{\textit{Physical plant and environment.}}

(a) \textit{Standard: Construction.} The CAH is constructed, arranged, and maintained to ensure access to and safety of patients, and provides adequate space for the provision of direct services.

(b) \textit{Standard: Maintenance.} The CAH has housekeeping and preventive maintenance programs to ensure that—

1. All essential mechanical, electrical, and patient-care equipment is maintained in safe operating condition;
2. There is proper routine storage and prompt disposal of trash;
3. Drugs and biologicals are appropriately stored;
4. The premises are clean and orderly; and
5. There is proper ventilation, lighting, and temperature control in all pharmaceutical, patient care, and food preparation areas.

(c) \textit{Standard: Emergency procedures.} The CAH assures the safety of patients in non-medical emergencies by—

1. Training staff in handling emergencies, including prompt reporting of fires, extinguishing of fires, protection and, where necessary, evacuation of patients, personnel, and guests, and cooperation with fire fighting and disaster authorities;
2. Providing for emergency power and lighting in the emergency room and for battery lamps and flashlights in other areas;
3. Providing for an emergency fuel and water supply; and
4. Taking other appropriate measures that are consistent with the particular conditions of the area in which the CAH is located.

§ 485.620 \textbf{Condition of participation: Number of beds and length of stay.}

(a) \textit{Standard: Number of beds.} Except as permitted for CAHs having distinct part units under §485.647, the CAH maintains no more than 25 inpatient beds after January 1, 2004, that can be used for either inpatient or swing-bed services.

(b) \textit{Standard: Length of stay.} The CAH provides acute inpatient care for a period that does not exceed, on an annual average basis, 96 hours per patient.