§ 485.627 Condition of participation: Organizational structure.

(a) Standard: Governing body or responsible individual. The CAH has a governing body or an individual that assumes full legal responsibility for determining, implementing and monitoring policies governing the CAH’s total operation and for ensuring that those policies are administered so as to provide quality health care in a safe environment.

(b) Standard: Disclosure. The CAH discloses the names and addresses of—

(1) Its owners, or those with a controlling interest in the CAH or in any subcontractor in which the CAH directly or indirectly has a 5 percent or more ownership interest, in accordance with chapter 19.3.6.3.2, exception number 2 of the adopted edition of the Life Safety Code does not apply to a CAH.

(2) If CMS finds that the State has a fire and safety code imposed by State law that adequately protects patients, CMS may allow the State survey agency to apply the State’s fire and safety code instead of the LSC.

(3) After consideration of State survey agency findings, CMS may waive specific provisions of the Life Safety Code that, if rigidly applied, would result in unreasonable hardship on the CAH, but only if the waiver does not adversely affect the health and safety of patients.

(4) The CAH maintains written evidence of regular inspection and approval by State or local fire control agencies.

(5) Beginning March 13, 2006, a critical access hospital must be in compliance with Chapter 9.2.9, Emergency Lighting.

(6) Beginning March 13, 2006, Chapter 19.3.6.3.2, exception number 2 does not apply to critical access hospitals.

(7) Notwithstanding any provisions of the 2000 edition of the Life Safety Code to the contrary, a critical access hospital may install alcohol-based hand rub dispensers in its facility if—

(1) Use of alcohol-based hand rub dispensers does not conflict with any State or local codes that prohibit or otherwise restrict the placement of alcohol-based hand rub dispensers in health care facilities;

(2) The dispensers are installed in a manner that minimizes leaks and spills that could lead to falls;

(3) The dispensers are installed in a manner that adequately protects against inappropriate access;

(4) The dispensers are installed in accordance with chapter 18.3.2.7 or chapter 19.3.2.7 of the 2000 edition of the Life Safety Code, as amended by NFPA Temporary Interim Amendment 00–1(101), issued by the Standards Council of the National Fire Protection Association on April 15, 2004. The Director of the Office of the Federal Register has approved NFPA Temporary Interim Amendment 00–1(101) for incorporation by reference in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 552(a) and 1 CFR part 51. A copy of the amendment is available for inspection at the CMS Information Resource Center, 7500 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, MD; and

(v) The dispensers are maintained in accordance with dispenser manufacturer guidelines.

with subpart C of part 420 of this chapter;
(2) The person principally responsible for the operation of the CAH; and
(3) The person responsible for medical direction.


§ 485.631 Condition of participation: Staffing and staff responsibilities.

(a) Standard: Staffing—(1) The CAH has a professional health care staff that includes one or more doctors of medicine or osteopathy, and may include one or more physician assistants, nurse practitioners, or clinical nurse specialists.
(2) Any ancillary personnel are supervised by the professional staff.
(3) The staff is sufficient to provide the services essential to the operation of the CAH.
(4) A doctor of medicine or osteopathy, nurse practitioner, clinical nurse specialist, or physician assistant is available to furnish patient care services at all times the CAH operates.
(5) A registered nurse, clinical nurse specialist, or licensed practical nurse is on duty whenever the CAH has one or more inpatients.

(b) Standard: Responsibilities of the doctor of medicine or osteopathy. (1) The doctor of medicine or osteopathy—
(i) Provides medical direction for the CAH's health care activities and consultation for, and medical supervision of, the health care staff;
(ii) In conjunction with the physician assistant and/or nurse practitioner member(s), participates in developing, executing, and periodically reviewing the CAH's written policies governing the services it furnishes.
(iii) In conjunction with the physician assistant and/or nurse practitioner members, periodically reviews the CAH's patient records, provides medical orders, and provides medical care services to the patients of the CAH; and
(iv) Periodically reviews and signs the records of all inpatients cared for by nurse practitioners, clinical nurse specialists, certified nurse midwives, or physician assistants, but not less than every 2 weeks, reviews and signs a sample of outpatient records of patients cared for by nurse practitioners, clinical nurse specialists, certified nurse midwives, or physician assistants according to the policies of the CAH and according to current standards of practice where State law requires record reviews or co-signatures, or both, by a collaborating physician.

(vi) Is not required to review and sign outpatient records of patients cared for by nurse practitioners, clinical nurse specialists, certified nurse midwives, or physician assistants where State law does not require record reviews or co-signatures, or both, by a collaborating physician.
(2) A doctor of medicine or osteopathy is present for sufficient periods of time, at least once in every 2 week period (except in extraordinary circumstances) to provide the medical direction, medical care services, consultation, and supervision described in this paragraph, and is available through direct radio or telephone communication for consultation, assistance with medical emergencies, or patient referral. The extraordinary circumstances are documented in the records of the CAH. A site visit is not required if no patients have been treated since the latest site visit.

(c) Standard: Physician assistant, nurse practitioner, and clinical nurse specialist responsibilities. (1) The physician assistant, the nurse practitioner, or clinical nurse specialist members of the CAH's staff—
(i) Participate in the development, execution and periodic review of the written policies governing the services the CAH furnishes; and
(ii) Participate with a doctor of medicine or osteopathy in a periodic review of the patients' health records.
(2) The physician assistant, nurse practitioner, or clinical nurse specialist performs the following functions to the extent they are not being performed by a doctor of medicine or osteopathy:

(i) Provides services in accordance with the CAH's policies.
(ii) Arranges for, or refers patients to, needed services that cannot be furnished at the CAH, and assures that adequate patient health records are