

(a) of this section, the civil money penalty is not reduced by 35 percent.

[59 FR 56243, Nov. 10, 1994; 62 FR 44221, Aug. 20, 1997]

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: At 76 FR 15127, Mar. 18, 2011, § 488.436 was amended by revising paragraph (b)(1), effective Jan. 1, 2012. For the convenience of the user, the revised text is set forth as follows:

**§ 488.436 Civil money penalties: Waiver of hearing, reduction of penalty amount.**

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(b) \* \* \*

(1) If the facility waives its right to a hearing in accordance with the procedures specified in paragraph (a) of this section, CMS or the State reduces the civil money penalty by 35 percent, as long as the civil money penalty has not also been reduced by 50 percent under § 488.438.

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**§ 488.438 Civil money penalties: Amount of penalty.**

(a) *Amount of penalty.* (1) The penalties are within the following ranges, set at \$50 increments:

(i) *Upper range—\$3,050–\$10,000.* Penalties in the range of \$3,050–\$10,000 per day are imposed for deficiencies constituting immediate jeopardy, and as specified in paragraph (d)(2) of this section.

(ii) *Lower range—\$50–\$3,000.* Penalties in the range of \$50–\$3,000 per day are imposed for deficiencies that do not constitute immediate jeopardy, but either caused actual harm, or caused no actual harm, but have the potential for more than minimal harm.

(2) *Per instance penalty.* When penalties are imposed for an instance of noncompliance, the penalties will be in the range of \$1,000–\$10,000 per instance.

(b) *Basis for penalty amount.* The amount of penalty is based on CMS's or the State's assessment of factors listed in paragraph (f) of this section.

(c) *Decreased penalty amounts.* Except as specified in paragraph (d)(2) of this section, if immediate jeopardy is removed, but the noncompliance continues, CMS or the State will shift the penalty amount imposed per day to the lower range.

(d) *Increased penalty amounts.* (1) Before a hearing requested in accordance

with § 488.432(a), CMS or the State may propose to increase the per day penalty amount for facility noncompliance which, after imposition of a lower level penalty amount, becomes sufficiently serious to pose immediate jeopardy.

(2) CMS does and the State must increase the per day penalty amount for any repeated deficiencies for which a lower level penalty amount was previously imposed, regardless of whether the increased penalty amount would exceed the range otherwise reserved for nonimmediate jeopardy deficiencies.

(3) Repeated deficiencies are deficiencies in the same regulatory grouping of requirements found at the last survey, subsequently corrected, and found again at the next survey.

(e) *Review of the penalty.* When an administrative law judge or State hearing officer (or higher administrative review authority) finds that the basis for imposing a civil money penalty exists, as specified in § 488.430, the administrative law judge or State hearing officer (or higher administrative review authority) may not—

(1) Set a penalty of zero or reduce a penalty to zero;

(2) Review the exercise of discretion by CMS or the State to impose a civil money penalty; and

(3) Consider any factors in reviewing the amount of the penalty other than those specified in paragraph (f) of this section.

(f) *Factors affecting the amount of penalty.* In determining the amount of penalty, CMS does or the State must take into account the following factors:

(1) The facility's history of noncompliance, including repeated deficiencies.

(2) The facility's financial condition.

(3) The factors specified in § 488.404.

(4) *The facility's degree of culpability.* Culpability for purposes of this paragraph includes, but is not limited to, neglect, indifference, or disregard for resident care, comfort or safety. The absence of culpability is not a mitigating circumstance in reducing the amount of the penalty.

[59 FR 56243, Nov. 10, 1994, as amended at 64 FR 13360, Mar. 18, 1999; 68 FR 46072, Aug. 4, 2003]

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: At 76 FR 15127, Mar. 18, 2011, § 488.438 was amended by revising

**§ 488.440**

paragraphs (c) and (d)(1), effective Jan. 1, 2012. For the convenience of the user, the added and revised text is set forth as follows:

**§ 488.438 Civil money penalties: Amount of penalty.**

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(c) *Decreased penalty amounts.* (1) Except as specified in paragraph (d)(2) of this section, if immediate jeopardy is removed, but the noncompliance continues, CMS or the State will shift the penalty amount imposed per day to the lower range.

(2) When CMS determines that a SNF, dually-participating SNF/NF, or NF-only facility subject to a civil money penalty imposed by CMS self-reports and promptly corrects the noncompliance for which the civil money penalty was imposed, CMS will reduce the amount of the penalty by 50 percent, provided that all of the following apply —

(i) The facility self-reported the noncompliance to CMS or the State before it was identified by CMS or the State and before it was reported to CMS or the State by means of a complaint lodged by a person other than an official representative of the nursing home;

(ii) Correction of the self-reported noncompliance occurred on whichever of the following occurs first:

(A) 15 calendar days from the date of the circumstance or incident that later resulted in a finding of noncompliance; or

(B) 10 calendar days from the date the civil money penalty was imposed;

(iii) The facility waives its right to a hearing under §488.436;

(iv) The noncompliance that was self-reported and corrected did not constitute a pattern of harm, widespread harm, immediate jeopardy, or result in the death of a resident;

(v) The civil money penalty was not imposed for a repeated deficiency, as defined in paragraph (d)(3) of this section, that was the basis of a civil money penalty that previously received a reduction under this section; and

(vi) The facility has met mandatory reporting requirements for the incident or circumstance upon which the civil money penalty is based, as required by Federal and State law.

(3) Under no circumstances will a facility receive both the 50 percent civil money penalty reduction for self-reporting and correcting under this section and the 35 percent civil money penalty reduction for waiving its right to a hearing under §488.436.

(d) \* \* \*

(1) Before a hearing requested in accordance with §488.431(d) or §488.432(a), CMS or the State may propose to increase the per day penalty amount for facility noncompli-

**42 CFR Ch. IV (10–1–11 Edition)**

ance which, after imposition of a lower level penalty amount, becomes sufficiently serious to pose immediate jeopardy.

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**§ 488.440 Civil money penalties: Effective date and duration of penalty.**

(a)(1) The per day civil money penalty may start accruing as early as the date that the facility was first out of compliance, as determined by CMS or the State.

(2) A civil money penalty for each instance of noncompliance is imposed in a specific amount for that particular deficiency .

(b) The per day civil money penalty is computed and collectible, as specified in §§488.432 and 488.442, for the number of days of noncompliance until the date the facility achieves substantial compliance, or, if applicable, the date of termination when—

(1) CMS’s or the State’s decision of noncompliance is upheld after a final administrative decision;

(2) The facility waives its right to a hearing in accordance with §488.436; or

(3) The time for requesting a hearing has expired and CMS or the State has not received a hearing request from the facility.

(c) The entire penalty, whether imposed on a per day or per instance basis, is due and collectible as specified in the notice sent to the provider under paragraphs (d) and (e) of this section.

(d)(1) When a civil money penalty is imposed on a per day basis and the facility achieves substantial compliance, CMS does or the State must send a separate notice to the facility containing the following information:

(i) The amount of penalty per day.

(ii) The number of days involved.

(iii) The total amount due.

(iv) The due date of the penalty.

(v) The rate of interest assessed on the unpaid balance beginning on the due date, as provided in §488.442.

(2) When a civil money penalty is imposed for an instance of noncompliance, CMS does or the State must send a separate notice to the facility containing the following information:

(i) The amount of the penalty.

(ii) The total amount due.

(iii) The due date of the penalty.