

(d) *Increased penalty amounts.* (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 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 miti-

gating 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; 76 FR 15127, Mar. 18, 2011; 81 FR 61563, Sept. 6, 2016]

§ 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 §§ 488.431, 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) The determination of noncompliance is upheld after a final administrative decision for NFs-only subject to civil money penalties imposed by the state or for civil money penalties imposed by CMS that are not collected and placed into an escrow account;

(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)(1) For NFs-only subject to civil money penalties imposed by the State and for civil money penalties imposed by CMS that may not be placed in an escrow account, 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.

(2) For SNFs, dually-participating SNF/NFs, or NFs subject to civil money penalties imposed by CMS, collection is made in accordance with § 488.431.

(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:

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

(e) In the case of a facility for which the provider agreement has been terminated and on which a civil money penalty was imposed on a per day basis, CMS does or the State must send this penalty information after the—

- (1) Final administrative decision is made;
- (2) Facility has waived its right to a hearing in accordance with § 488.436; or
- (3) Time for requesting a hearing has expired and CMS or the state has not received a hearing request from the facility.

(f) *Accrual of penalties when there is no immediate jeopardy.* (1) In the case of noncompliance that does not pose immediate jeopardy, the daily accrual of per day civil money penalties is imposed for the days of noncompliance prior to the notice specified in § 488.434 and an additional period of no longer than 6 months following the last day of the survey.

(2) After the period specified in paragraph (f)(1) of this section, if the facility has not achieved substantial compliance, CMS terminates the provider agreement and the State may terminate the provider agreement.

(g)(1) In a case when per day civil money penalties are imposed, when a facility has deficiencies that pose immediate jeopardy, CMS does or the State must terminate the provider agreement within 23 calendar days after the last day of the survey if the immediate jeopardy remains.

(2) The accrual of the civil money penalty imposed on a per day basis

stops on the day the provider agreement is terminated.

(h)(1) If an on-site revisit is necessary to confirm substantial compliance and the provider can supply documentation acceptable to CMS or the State agency that substantial compliance was achieved on a date preceding the revisit, penalties imposed on a per day basis only accrue until that date of correction for which there is written credible evidence.

(2) If an on-site revisit is not necessary to confirm substantial compliance, penalties imposed on a per day basis only accrue until the date of correction for which CMS or the State receives and accepts written credible evidence.

[59 FR 56243, Nov. 10, 1994, as amended at 64 FR 13361, Mar. 18, 1999; 76 FR 15128, Mar. 18, 2011]

§ 488.442 Civil money penalties: Due date for payment of penalty.

(a) *When payments are due for a civil money penalty.* (1) Payment for a civil money penalty is due in accordance with § 488.431 of this chapter for CMS-imposed penalties and 15 days after the State initiates collection pursuant to § 488.432 of this chapter for State-imposed penalties, except as provided in paragraphs (a)(2) and (3) of this section.

(2) *After the facility waives its right to a hearing in accordance with § 488.436(a).* Except as provided for in § 488.431, a civil money penalty is due 75 days after the notice of the penalty in accordance with § 488.436 and a hearing request was not received when:

(i) The facility achieved substantial compliance before the hearing request was due; or

(ii) The effective date of termination occurs before the hearing request was due.

(3) *After the effective date of termination.* A civil money penalty payment is due 15 days after the effective date of termination, if that date is earlier than the date specified in paragraph (a)(1) of this section.

(b) [Reserved]

(c) *Deduction of penalty from amount owed.* The amount of the penalty, when determined, may be deducted from any sum then or later owing by CMS or the State to the facility.