CMS Renews Joint Commission Home Health Accreditation Deeming Authority

(OAKBROOK TERRACE, Ill. – May 13, 2014) The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced it has granted The Joint Commission deeming authority for the accreditation of home health agencies for a six-year period effective March 31, 2014, through March 31, 2020. The Joint Commission has been recognized as a CMS deeming authority for home health since 1993.

As part of the process for awarding deeming authority, CMS evaluated The Joint Commission’s standards for home health and found they meet or exceed those established by CMS. This designation means that Joint Commission–accredited home health agencies may request to be surveyed by The Joint Commission for compliance with the requirements of CMS for participation in the Medicare program for reimbursement. Accreditation is voluntary, and seeking deemed status through accreditation is an option—not a requirement. Organizations seeking Medicare approval may choose to be surveyed either by an accrediting body, such as The Joint Commission, or by state surveyors on behalf of CMS. All deemed status surveys are unannounced.

“The home health providers that seek accreditation from The Joint Commission are committing to an unparalleled quality framework and this designation from CMS reinforces that our standards help providers achieve and sustain the highest level of patient care and safety,” says Margherita Labson, RN, MSHSA, CPHQ, executive director, Home Care Accreditation, The Joint Commission. “We are proud of this achievement and the advantages our accreditation bestows on the organizations we accredit.”

For more information on Home Care Accreditation, please call (630) 792-5284 or email mlabson@jointcommission.org.
Founded in 1951, The Joint Commission seeks to continuously improve health care for the public, in collaboration with other stakeholders, by evaluating health care organizations and inspiring them to excel in providing safe and effective care of the highest quality and value. The Joint Commission evaluates and accredits more than 20,000 health care organizations and programs in the United States, including more than 10,300 hospitals and home care organizations, and more than 6,500 other health care organizations that provide nursing and rehabilitation center care, behavioral health care, laboratory and ambulatory care services. The Joint Commission currently certifies more than 2,000 disease-specific care programs, focused on the care of patients with chronic illnesses such as stroke, joint replacement, stroke rehabilitation, heart failure and many others. The Joint Commission also provides health care staffing services certification for more than 750 staffing offices. An independent, not-for-profit organization, The Joint Commission is the nation's oldest and largest standards-setting and accrediting body in health care. Learn more about The Joint Commission at www.jointcommission.org.