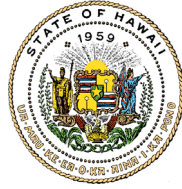


**JOSH GREEN, M.D.**  
GOVERNOR  
KE KIA'ĀINA



**CATHY BETTS**  
DIRECTOR  
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

**JOSEPH CAMPOS II**  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR  
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I  
**DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**  
KA 'OIHANA MĀLAMA LAWELAWE KANAKA  
Med-QUEST Division  
Health Care Services Branch  
P. O. Box 700190  
Kapolei, Hawaii 96709-0190

July 28, 2023

MEMORANDUM

MEMO NO.

QI-2329

FFS 23-15

TO: QUEST Integration Health Plans

FROM: *for* Judy Mohr Peterson, PhD *JMP*  
Med-QUEST Division Administrator

SUBJECT: PAYMENT SUSPENSION TO PROVIDER – KUAKINI GERIATRIC CARE, INC

This memo is to inform Health Plans that Kuakini Geriatric Care, Inc did not meet the requirements for nursing homes participating in Medicare and Medicaid programs per Centers of Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Notice dated July 21, 2023. On January 13, 2023, and March 22, 2023, a health recertification survey, life safety code/emergency preparedness recertification survey, and health recertification follow-up survey were completed at Kuakini Geriatric Care, Inc by the Hawaii Department of Health State Survey Agency (SSA) to determine if the facility was in compliance with the Federal requirements for nursing homes participating in the Medicare and Medicaid programs. The SSA found that Kuakini Geriatric Care, Inc was not in substantial compliance with the Federal requirements for nursing homes participating in the Medicare and Medicaid programs.

The SSA completed a revisit at Kuakini Geriatric Care, Inc and determined that the facility had obtained substantial compliance with all cited deficiencies as of April 19, 2023.

Therefore, per 42 C.F.R. 488.406 (b)(2), and in accordance with the remedy imposed by CMS, the remedy of mandatory denial of payment for new Medicaid admissions was effective from April 13, 2023 to April 18, 2023. For any new admissions from April 13, 2023 – April 18, 2023, Kuakini Geriatric Care, Inc is ineligible for Medicaid payment from time of admission up to

Memo No. QI-2329, FFS 23-15

July 28, 2023

Page 2

April 18, 2023. Payment for these admissions shall resume on April 19, 2023. Kuakini Geriatric Care, Inc shall not seek payment from Medicaid beneficiaries for their covered services during the ineligible period.

Should you have any questions, please contact Megan Hironaka at [mhironaka@dhs.hawaii.gov](mailto:mhironaka@dhs.hawaii.gov).

Attachment(s)

CMS Notice, dated July 21, 2023

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES  
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services  
Center for Clinical Standards and Quality  
Survey & Operations Group  
San Francisco and Seattle Survey & Enforcement Division  
90 7th Street, Suite 5-300 (5W)  
San Francisco, CA 94103-6707



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**THIS SERVES AS OFFICIAL NOTICE SENT VIA ELECTRONICALLY PURSUANT TO  
42 CFR Part 488. NO HARD COPY TO FOLLOW**

Sent via E-MAIL to: [G.OISHI@kuakini.org](mailto:G.OISHI@kuakini.org)

July 21, 2023

CMS Certification Number (CCN): 125026

Administrator  
Kuakini Geriatric Care, Inc  
347 North Kuakini Street  
Honolulu, HI 96817

**SUBJECT: SURVEY FINDINGS AND IMPOSITION/DISPOSITION OF REMEDIES**  
**Cycle Start Date: January 13, 2023**

Dear Administrator:

On January 13, 2023 and March 22, 2023 a health recertification survey, life safety code/emergency preparedness recertification survey, and health recertification follow-up survey were completed at Kuakini Geriatric Care, Inc by the Hawaii Department of Health (State Survey Agency (SSA)) to determine if your facility was in compliance with the Federal requirements for nursing homes participating in the Medicare and Medicaid programs. The SSA found that your facility was not in substantial compliance, with the most serious deficiencies at Scope and Severity (S/S) level J, cited on January 13, 2023, as follows:

- F0756 -- S/S: J -- 483.45(c)(1)(2)(4)(5) -- Drug Regimen Review, Report Irregular, Act On

The survey team found one situation of immediate jeopardy (IJ) to resident health and safety with a last day of January 13, 2023.

The SSA advised you of the deficiencies that led to this determination and provided you with a copy of the Statement of Deficiencies for the surveys referenced above (CMS-2567).

**SUMMARY OF ENFORCEMENT REMEDIES**

As a result of the survey findings, and as authorized by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), the SSA notified you of the imposition of the following remedies, as well as your appeal rights:

- Directed Plan of Correction for F0880
- Mandatory Denial of Payment for New Admissions effective April 13, 2023

Based on the survey findings, the SSA notified you they were recommending that the CMS impose an additional remedy, as follows:

- Federal Civil Money Penalty

### **SUBSTANTIAL COMPLIANCE**

The SSA completed a revisit at your facility and determined that your facility had obtained substantial compliance with all cited deficiencies within this enforcement cycle as of April 19, 2023. As a result, the following remedy will not go into effect:

- Mandatory Termination effective July 13, 2023

Based on the survey findings, the following remedy is being imposed:

- Federal Civil Money Penalty, see below.

### **DENIAL OF PAYMENT FOR NEW ADMISSIONS**

However, based on the period of time your facility was not in substantial compliance, the following remedy has gone into effect, which was reflected in the Hawaii Department of Health's letter to your facility dated February 9, 2023:

- Mandatory denial of payment for new Medicare and Medicaid admissions, which was imposed effective April 13, 2023 is no longer in effect as of April 19, 2023. **Thus, the remedy applies to any new Medicare and Medicaid admissions from April 13, 2023 through April 18, 2023.**

Note: Consistent with 42 C.F.R. § 488.452(a)(3), this notice specifically supersedes any notice sent by the SSA reflecting a different denial of payment effective date and imposes the denial of payment for all new Medicare and Medicaid admissions pursuant to 42 C.F.R. § 488.417(b) effective **April 13, 2023 through April 18, 2023**.

In addition, the following remedy is being imposed:

Federal Civil Money Penalty, see below.

### **CIVIL MONEY PENALTY**

In accordance with sections 1819(h)(2)(B)(ii) and 1919(h)(3)(C)(ii) of the Social Security Act and the enforcement regulations specified at 42 C.F.R. Part 488, we are imposing the following:

**Federal Civil Money Penalty of \$8,140.00 per day for the one (1) day beginning January 13, 2023 and continuing through January 13, 2023 for a total of \$8,140.00**

**Federal Civil Money Penalty of \$470.00 per day for the ninety-five (95) days beginning January 14, 2023 and continuing through April 18, 2023 for a total of \$44,650.00**

**The total CMP imposed is: \$52,790.00**

The authority for the imposition of remedies is contained in subsections 1819(h) and 1919(h) of the Social Security Act ("Act") and Federal regulations at 42 CFR § 488 Subpart F, Enforcement of Compliance for Long-Term Care Facilities with Deficiencies.

### **FINANCIAL HARDSHIP CONSIDERATION**

If you believe that you have documented evidence that should be considered in establishing the amount of the CMP, the following documents should be submitted electronically to [Yvonne.Pon@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Yvonne.Pon@cms.hhs.gov) within **fifteen (15) calendar days** from the receipt of this notice:

- Written, dated request specifying the reason financial hardship is alleged
- List of the supporting documents submitted
- Current balance sheet
- Current income statements
- Current cash flow statements
- Most recent full year audited financial statements prepared by an independent accounting firm, including footnotes
- Most recent full year audited financial statements of the home office and/or related entities, prepared by an independent accounting firm, including footnotes
- Disclosure of expenses and amounts paid/accrued to the home office and/or related entities
- Schedule showing amounts due to/from related companies or individuals included in the balance sheets. The schedule should list the names of related organizations or persons and indicate where the amounts appear on the balance sheet (e.g., Accounts Receivable, Notes Receivable, etc.)
- If the nursing home requests an extended payment schedule of more than twelve (12) months duration, the provider must submit a letter from a financial institution denying the provider's loan request for the amount of the CMP. This does not apply to CMPs to be held in escrow.

When the CMP is due and payable, it may be placed in an escrow account fifteen days after one of the following, whichever occurs first:

- The date on which an Independent IDR process is completed, if applicable or
- The date which is 90 calendar days after the date of the notice of imposition of the civil money penalty.

### **CMP CASE NUMBER**

**Please do not send payment now.** A CMP case number will be assigned to your case only when the final CMP is due and payable. At that time you will receive a notice from this office with the CMP case number and payment instructions. If the total amount of the CMP is not received by the due date, interest will be assessed in accordance with the regulations at 42 CFR § 488.442 on the unpaid balance of the penalty beginning on the due date. The Federal rate of interest is **11.50%**. The CMP, and any interest accrued after the due date, will be deducted from sums owing to you **without any further notification from this office.**

Prior to the assignment of a CMP case number, you must ensure that your facility's name, CMS Certification Number (CCN), and the enforcement cycle start date appear on any correspondence pertaining to this CMP.

- Your CMS Certification Number (CCN) is 125026.
- The start date for this cycle is January 13, 2023

### **CMP REDUCED IF HEARING WAIVED**

If you waive your right to a hearing, in writing, within 60 calendar days from receipt of this notice,

the amount of your CMP will be reduced by thirty-five percent (35%). To receive this reduction, the written waiver should be sent to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Division of Survey and Certification at [Yvonne.Pon@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Yvonne.Pon@cms.hhs.gov). **Please include your facility name, CCN and the Cycle Start Date in the subject line of your email.**

**The failure to request a hearing within 60 calendar days from your receipt of this notice does not constitute a waiver of your right to a hearing for purposes of the 35% reduction.**

#### **INFORMAL DISPUTE RESOLUTION (IDR)**

The SSA offered you an opportunity for informal dispute resolution (IDR) following its survey visits. A request for IDR will not delay the effective date of any enforcement action. However, IDR results will be considered when applicable.

#### **INDEPENDENT INFORMAL DISPUTE RESOLUTION (INDEPENDENT IDR)**

Because we are now imposing a CMP that is subject to immediate collection and placement in escrow, 42 CFR § 488.431 requires us to notify you that you may also have a right to an Independent Informal Dispute Resolution (IIDR). Deficiencies for which you elect IDR are not also eligible for IIDR; therefore you will need to choose.

An IIDR allows you to present written arguments and documentation that explain why you believe the deficiencies are incorrect. You may also contest scope and severity assessments for deficiencies which resulted in a finding of Substandard Quality of Care or immediate jeopardy. IIDR also requires the SSA to notify the involved resident(s) or the appropriate resident representative(s), who were involved in the deficiency; as well as to notify the State Long Term Care Ombudsman. As part of the IIDR process, these parties will be given the opportunity to comment on the relevant deficiencies.

A request for an IIDR must be postmarked within **10 calendar days** of the date of this notice. Your IIDR request must identify which deficiencies are being disputed, and provide all documentation you will use to dispute the survey findings. To be given such an opportunity, you are required to send your written request, i.e. why you are disputing the scope and severity assessments of deficiencies which have been found to constitute SQC or immediate jeopardy, to the SSA to:

**Keith Ridley, Chief**  
**Hawaii Department of Health**  
**Office of Health Care Assurance**  
**601 Kamokila Blvd., Room 395**  
**Kapolei, Hawaii 96707**  
**Telephone: (808) 692-7420**  
[Keith.Ridley@doh.hawaii.gov](mailto:Keith.Ridley@doh.hawaii.gov)

Upon receipt of your IIDR request, the SSA will provide information on the next steps in the IIDR process. If you request IIDR, the CMP may be collected on the day the IIDR is completed, or 90 days from the date of this letter, whichever is earliest.

#### **NURSE AIDE TRAINING PROHIBITION (NATCEP)**

Federal law, as specified in the Social Security Act at § 1819(f)(2)(B) and § 1919(f)(2)(B), prohibits approval of nurse aide training and competency evaluation programs and nurse aide competency evaluation programs offered by, or in, a facility which, within the previous two years, has operated under a § 1819(b)(4)(C)(ii)(II) or § 1919(b)(4)(C)(ii) waiver (i.e., waiver of full-time registered

professional nurse); has been subject to an extended or partial extended survey as a result of a finding of substandard quality of care; has been assessed a total civil money penalty of not less than \$11,995.00; has been subject to a denial of payment, the appointment of a temporary manager or termination; or, in the case of an emergency, has been closed and/or had its residents transferred to other facilities.

You were previously notified that, in accordance with Section 1819(f)(2)(B)(iii)(I)(b) of the Social Security Act, if you had not achieved substantial compliance by April 13, 2023, the remedy of denial of payment for new admissions would go into effect and this provision would apply to your facility. Therefore, your facility will be prohibited from offering or conducting a NATCEP for two years from April 13, 2023.

You will receive further details about the denial of approval of nurse aide training from the State. In light of the foregoing, you may finish any nurse assistant training class you are presently conducting; you may not, however, start another such class.

### **APPEAL RIGHTS**

If you disagree with the determination to impose remedies made on the basis of noncompliance identified in this notice, you or your legal representative may request a hearing before an administrative law judge of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Departmental Appeals Board (DAB). The appeal rights are set forth at 42 C.F.R. § 498.5 and the procedures for requesting a hearing are set forth at §498.40, et seq. You must file your hearing request electronically by using the DAB's Electronic Filing System (DAB E-File) at <https://dab.efile.hhs.gov/>, unless you obtain a waiver from the DAB (*see* DAB Civil Remedies Division Procedures, § 6(a)(i)(1)). Your appeal must be filed no later than 60 days from the date of receipt of this letter.

If you elect to dispute deficiencies through the Informal Dispute Resolution (IDR) process (see the state letter accompanying the CMS Form-2567 for additional details and deadlines), this will not extend the 60 day period to file your appeal before the Departmental Appeals Board. Filing an appeal will not stop the imposition of any enforcement remedy.

If you experience problems with, or have questions about DAB e-File, please contact e-File System Support at [OSDABImmediateOffice@hhs.gov](mailto:OSDABImmediateOffice@hhs.gov). If you have questions about using the DAB e-file System, please visit: [https://dab.efile.hhs.gov/appeals/to\\_crd\\_instructions?locale=en](https://dab.efile.hhs.gov/appeals/to_crd_instructions?locale=en).

### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

If you have any questions, please contact [Yvonne.Pon@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Yvonne.Pon@cms.hhs.gov)

Sincerely,



for  
Dustin Collins, Acting Branch Manager  
Long-Term Care Branch II  
San Francisco Survey & Enforcement Division  
Survey & Operations Group  
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services  
U.S. Department of Health & Human Services

Copies via e-mail to:

State Survey Agency  
State Medicaid Agency  
USDOJ  
MAC