

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
OFFICE OF DIRECTOR

ACTION REFERRAL

TO	DATE
<i>Boaling</i>	<i>12-11-06</i>

DIRECTOR'S USE ONLY	ACTION REQUESTED
1. LOG NUMBER 000396	<input type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for the Director's signature DATE DUE _____
2. DATE SIGNED BY DIRECTOR <i>Cleaud 12/20/06, letter attached.</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for appropriate signature DATE DUE <i>12-20-06</i>
	<input type="checkbox"/> FOIA DATE DUE _____
	<input type="checkbox"/> Necessary Action

APPROVALS (only when prepared for director's signature)	APPROVE	* DISAPPROVE (note reason for disapproval and return to preparer.)	COMMENT
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			

December 5, 2006

*Lois Bowling
Walton-Sims, Jr.*



Mr. Robert Kerr, Director

Department of Health & Human Services

P.O. Box 8206

Columbia, SC 29202

RECEIVED

DEC 11 2006

Dear Mr. Kerr:

Department of Health & Human Services
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

On November 14, 2006, the Healthcare Quality Association on Accreditation was awarded "Deemed Status" by CMS. This deemed status award is the result of the Medicare Modernization Act requiring CMS to identify several agencies to accredit all Durable Medical Equipment Companies by meeting measurable quality standards.

HQAA respectfully requests recognition by South Carolina's Medical Assistance program as an approved DME accrediting organization. A written response by 1/1/2006 to our request would be appreciated.

We look forward to your response and an opportunity to work with you to improve the care and quality of life for South Carolina's beneficiaries.

Sincerely,

Mary Nicholas

Mary Nicholas, MHA

Executive Director

Healthcare

QUALITY

ASSOCIATION ON ACCREDITATION

217 West 4th Street, Waterloo, IA 50701 Toll Free: 866.909.HQAA Fax: 877.226.5564 www.HQAA.org

Our check is the assurance of proficiency in the highest standards of home medical equipment business practices.



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

Program Integrity Group

Division of Medical Review & Education

7500 Security Boulevard
Baltimore, Maryland 21244

November 13, 2006

Mary K. Nicholas
Executive Director
HealthCare Quality Association on Accreditation
PO Box 1946, 217 West 4th Street
Waterloo, IA 50702

Dear Ms. Nicholas,

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) technical review team has completed reviewing your application for deemed status for Durable Medical Equipment Prosthetics Orthotics Supplies (DMEPOS) suppliers seeking to participate in the Medicare Part B program. The purpose of this review was to ensure that your accreditation standards for DMEPOS meet or exceed CMS' DMEPOS accreditation standards. CMS is pleased to report that your standards meet CMS DMEPOS standards, and therefore has approved you for national deeming authority.

Until such time that CMS issues this information publicly, we ask that you do not publicly make any announcement. We anticipate making a Press Release shortly.

At this time we would like to inform you that we will be convening all of the deemed DMEPOS organizations on December 18, 2006 for a one day conference to review all of your responsibilities. The meeting logistics are attached.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please do not hesitate to contact Sandra Bastinelli at (410) 786-3630, or E-mail Sandra.bastinelli@cms.hhs.gov.

Sincerely,

Kimberly L. Brandt
Director
Program Integrity Group

Cc: Technical Review Team



State of South Carolina
Department of Health and Human Services

Mark Sanford
Governor

Robert M. Kerr
Director

December 20, 2006

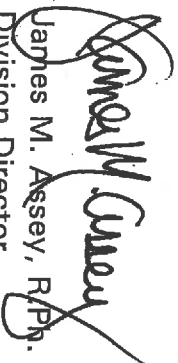
Mary Nicholas, MHA
Executive Director
Healthcare Quality Association on Accreditation
217 West 4th Street
Waterloo, Iowa 50701

Dear Ms. Nicholas:

Thank you for your letter of December 5, 2006, to Director Robert Kerr requesting recognition by the South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) of your organization as an approved DME accrediting organization. DHHS acts as the single state agency for the South Carolina Medicaid program and as such does not award deemed status to accrediting organizations; however, we will recognize all Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) deemed accrediting organizations.

I hope this information is helpful to you. Should you like to discuss this matter further, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,


James M. Assey, R.Ph.
Division Director

JMA/m