

Health Care: Actions to Terminate Problem Hospitals from Medicare Are Inadequate: Hrd-91-54



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(Gino Jerde Jr.)

HEALTH CARE: ACTIONS TO TERMINATE PROBLEM HOSPITALS FROM MEDICARE ARE INADEQUATE: HRD-91-54



BiblioGov. Paperback. Book Condition: New. This item is printed on demand. Paperback. 26 pages. Dimensions: 9.7in. x 7.4in. x 0.1in. GAO provided information on the Health Care Financing Administrations (HCFA) lack of compliance with regulations governing the termination of acute care hospitals from the Medicare program when deficiencies are not corrected within required time frames, focusing on: (1) specific areas that need improvement; and (2) alternative enforcement options that can be used against problem hospitals to supplement termination. GAO found that: (1) HCFA is not sending termination notices to all hospitals that have not corrected problems identified by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations within 75 days after the initial accreditation survey and is not terminating problem hospitals from the Medicare program when corrective action is not taken within the required 90 days; (2) from October 1, 1986, to October 31, 1989, surveyors in the 5 regions visited identified 195 accredited and nonaccredited acute care hospitals that were not complying with the Medicare conditions of participation, and of these hospitals 147 hospitals corrected the identified deficiencies and 2 were terminated from the program within the required 90 days; (3) HCFA rarely terminates hospitals from the Medicare program, since some HCFA regional office personnel believe that termination is warranted only if a hospital has a history of serious problems and does not seem inclined to correct them and that state agency surveyors findings may not be accurate; (4) state health care officials routinely used such intermediate sanctions as assessing monetary penalties or fines for noncompliance or failure to correct deficiencies within certain time frames, publishing in the local media adverse reports of sanctions imposed on hospitals for quality of care violations, and suspending all or some hospital admissions or services until corrective action is taken on identified problems, in lieu...

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