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CMS RELEASES DEADLINES FOR COMPLIANCE WITH VACCINE MANDATE

On January 13, 2022, the U.S. Supreme Court issued an Order reinstating the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' (CMS) [Interim Final Rule](#) (IFR) requiring healthcare employers to mandate COVID-19 vaccinations for staff.

Late Friday, January 14, 2022, CMS issued a [Quality, Safety & Oversight](#) (QSO) Memo with further guidance on how CMS plans to exercise its enforcement discretion. The QSO provides state surveyors with general guidance for how to enforce the IFR as well as provider-facility specific guidance.

Most notably, the QSO Memo clarifies the new compliance deadlines for facilities in states where implementation of the mandate had been halted, including Nebraska and Iowa.

Specifically, in those states, staff must have received at least their first dose of COVID-19 vaccine prior to **February 14, 2022**, and their second dose prior to **March 15, 2022**.

We anticipate that CMS will release further information and guidance in the coming days, including an update to their [Frequently Asked Questions](#) (FAQs) page. As of the date of this e-alert, the FAQ page had not yet been updated.

For readers' ease of reference, see the following links:

IFR – [Interim Final Rule](#)
QSO – [Quality, Safety & Oversight](#)
FAQs – [Frequently Asked Questions](#)

Cline Williams continues to monitor this developing area of law and may provide additional updates and analysis.

For more information on these issues, please reach out to a member of Cline Williams' [Health Care Law](#) or [Labor and Employment Law Section](#).

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