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### **CMS Temporary Waivers on Verbal Orders and Medical Record Requirements**

CMS is waiving the requirements of parts of the public health sections of the Code of Federal Regulations related to verbal orders and the handling of medical records.

To allow more efficient treatment of patients in surge situations, the following requirements for verbal orders are waived:

- If verbal orders are used for the use of drugs and biologicals (except immunizations), they are to be used infrequently.
- All orders, including verbal orders, must be dated, timed, and authenticated promptly by the ordering practitioner or by another practitioner who is responsible for the care of the patient.
- Although the regulation requires that medication administration be based on a written, signed order, this does not preclude the CAH from using verbal orders. A practitioner responsible for the care of the patient must authenticate the order in writing as soon as possible after the fact.

For medical records, CMS is waiving requirements which cover the subjects of the organization and staffing of the medical records department, requirements for the form and content of the medical record, and record retention requirements, and these flexibilities may be implemented so long as they are not inconsistent with a state's emergency preparedness or pandemic plan. The requirement to complete medical records within 30 days of discharge is also waived to allow clinicians to focus on patient care.